Drilon seeks Mendoza resignation over Naia breach

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Problems haunted SC cottage project

By V. Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SAKIT NG ULO TALAGA YANG MGA COTTAGES NA YAN!

BAGUIO CITY—Before Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. came to grief at the hands of the House, he had other, well,

PROBLEMS/ A8

DAY OF RECKONING

Palace, PNP deny overkill in assault on Naia tower

By Christian V. Esguerra, Jerome Aning and Norman Bordadora

EVEN BEFORE the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group could begin its investigation, Malacañang and the Philippine National Police justified the assault by a special police team on a control tower of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Saturday.

Killed during the strike were former Air Transportation Office chief Panfilo Villaruel and Navy Lt. Ricardo Catchillar, who seized the control tower on Friday.

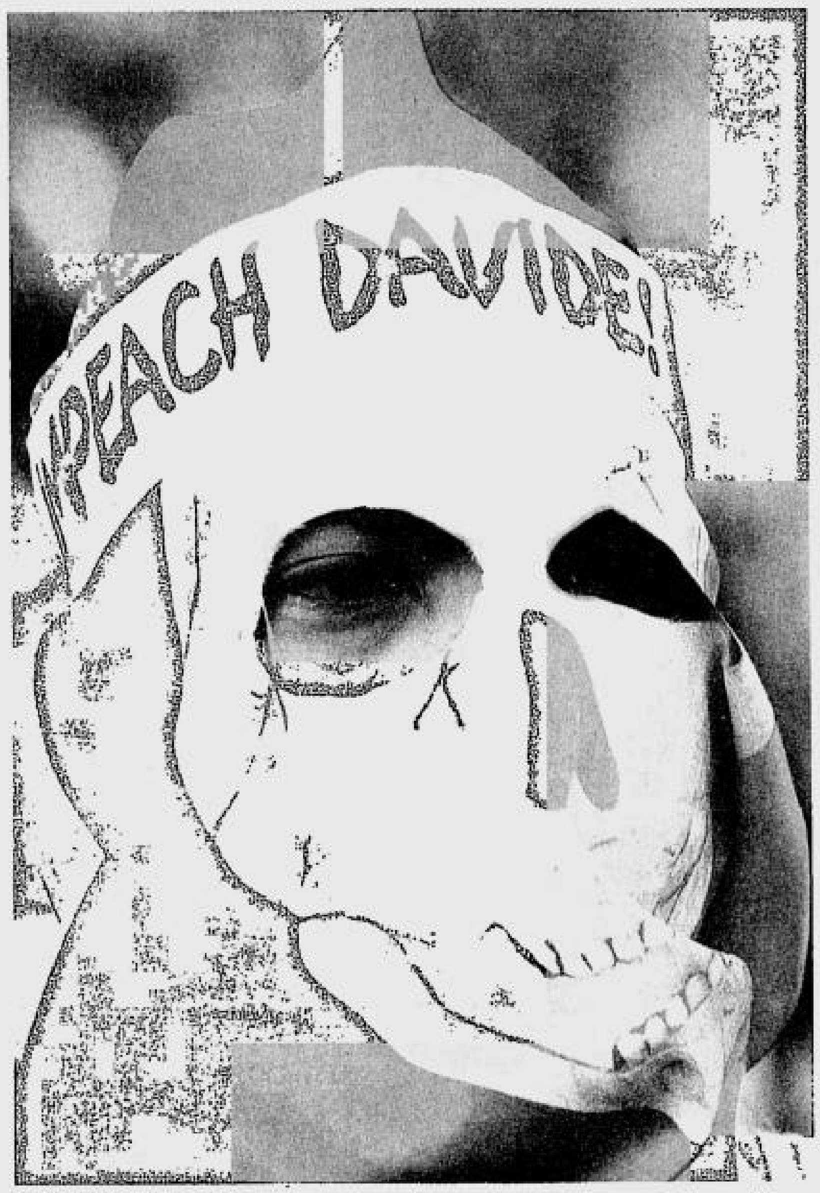
Villaruel's family cried "overkill" when they heard of the move of the Airport Security Group's Special Weapons and Tactics to storm the tower although the former ATO chief had reportedly sent surrender feelers.

"The swift assault and killings are necessary consequences of a police operation," said President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson, Ignacio Bunye, on RMN radio.

In a statement, Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, PNP information officer, said the ASG's reaction was "a highly commendable judgment call by the personnel on the ground."

The PNP noted that Villaruel's decision to take over the airport control tower was an "act inimical to civil aviation as

PALACE/ A5


PEACH DAVIDE!

A MASKED member of the Kilusan para sa Makatarungang Lipunan at Gobyerno joins a lightning rally near Speaker Jose de Venecia's house in Dasmariñas Village to urge him to push through with the impeachment case against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. ERIK ARAZAS

SC to issue ruling on impeach bid today

By Carlito Pablo, Blanche S. Rivera and Jerome Aning

THE IMPEACHMENT crisis comes to a head today, when the Supreme Court is expected to issue a landmark ruling in the morning, and Congress resumes session in the afternoon.

If the high court does not hand down a decision on the constitutionality of the second impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. today, "there will be a good chance of transmittal" of the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate, Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. yesterday said.

"If the proponents would maintain their numbers, then we have no choice but to transmit. But if the Supreme Court declares the second complaint unconstitutional, we will have a hard time to transmit this," De Venecia said after addressing the prayer rally for national reconciliation led by the El Shaddai charismatic movement early yesterday morning.

De Venecia said that under normal circumstances, the transmittal would merely be a formality, but if the high court declared that the complaint was unconstitutional, then there would be a "real, real, real crisis, real problems."

Senate President Franklin Drilon, who would preside over an impeachment trial, said the Senate was looking to the tribunal to issue its decision.

"The worst case for me is if the Supreme Court does not come up with a decision today. Everybody is hanging; the entire nation hangs. Whatever their decision, they should render one now," Drilon said.

But Court Administrator Presbitero Velasco Jr. said a decision would definitely be released today.

"Hopefully, this will resolve the crisis. I'm sure because everyone is supposed to respect and abide by the decision of the Supreme Court (since) it is the only body in this government entrusted with the power, the duty, to decide controversies. It has to decide, otherwise there would be confusion."

In Malacañang, the public official who would execute the Supreme Court's decision in case of a conflict with Congress said she would heed the high court's ruling.

"The executive branch will abide by whatever the Supreme Court decides on the impeachment case," President Macapagal-Arroyo said.

"The Supreme Court is the final arbiter and interpreter of the law and its decision must be recognized and respected because it is required for national interest based on the Constitution."

Despite the President's declaration, her spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said Ms Macapagal remained hopeful "up to the last minute" that a showdown between the judiciary and the legislature would be averted, mainly through the tripartite covenant she herself proposed.

De Venecia told reporters that at least

DAY/ A21

MARITESS Villaruel mourns the loss of her husband, former Air Transportation Office chief Panfilo Villaruel. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Still no viable opposition bet for 2004 polls

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

SEN. EDGARDO Angara's search for a viable opposition presidential candidate in the 2004 elections has thus far proved to be a futile exercise to field a clear alternative to President Macapagal-Arroyo, conceded as the administration party's (Lakas) presidential emblem carrier.

The search has only succeeded in narrowing the opposition's choice to three people—Fernando Poe Jr., Sen. Panfilo Lacson and Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. None of them stands out as an inspiring option to the incumbent.

Angara, the architect of a "united opposition," has used the mechanism of the "road show" to plumb the pulse of the grassroots. From this pre-selection survey, Angara has eliminated Eduardo Cojuangco, Sen. Gregorio Honasan and Sen. Noli de Castro from the opposition's "selection poll," concluding that Poe and Lacson appeared "to be the front runners."

We are not told how Angara reached what appears to be an impressionistic conclusion. Neither Poe nor Lacson has shown immense popularity in published poll surveys over the past six months. Poe is just running neck and neck with the President in the latest survey, and Lacson has been lagging behind. Pimentel even tails Lacson. They have to show something more remarkable to be considered competitive to the President.

The road show highlights an important finding—that the opposition's bench is too thin to offer this country, in desperate need of an inspiring leadership, fresh hopes for renewal in 2004. Elections are about giving the people a clear alternative and reasonable options beyond recruiting celebrities whose qualifications (let alone intellectual capacity and experience in public affairs) to pull the country from its perennial crises are next to nothing.

If this lightweight short list is what a "united opposition" can offer the nation, then it has failed in its main reason for existing—finding someone superior to a much-reviled president it seeks to dismount. It is not enough for the opposition to carp on the shortcomings of the sitting presidency and uncover scandals involving alleged corruption. It has to show its contender can do a better job of running this country.

Angara, who is the de facto opposition leader, seems to be seeking the revival of the notion of an institutionalized opposition in a democracy. Under this notion,

STILL / A20

Bear Stearns gives GMA even chance

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE NEW York-based Bear Stearns & Co. Inc., one of the world's largest investment banking and securities trading firms, says foreign investors view a victory by President Macapagal-Arroyo as the most positive outcome of the Philippine elections next year.

But Bear Stearns noted that the President's potential rivals—action star Fernando Poe Jr. and former Education Secretary Raul Roco—could steal the thunder from Ms Macapagal in the elections

BEAR/ A20

Officials doubt conspiracy in Naia takeover

By Christine O. Avendaño and Christian V. Esguerra

SENATE President Franklin Drilon yesterday said Gen. Narciso Abaya, Armed Forces chief of staff, had told him that the takeover of a control tower of Manila's international airport that ended with the death of former Air Transportation Office chief Panfilo Villaruel was not linked to any plot to grab power.

"He [Abaya] assured me that the conspiracy theory is not supported by intelligence information," Drilon said in a phone interview.

"So it's purely speculation," he said of reports quoting some intelligence officers that Villaruel may not have been acting alone when he took over the control tower.

The military described as a "figment of

OFFICIALS/ A5

Car bombers attack foreigners' villas in Riyadh

RIYADH—Suspected al-Qaida suicide bombers on Sunday devastated a Riyadh residential compound of foreigners mostly from Arab states, killing between 20 and 30 people and wounding up to 100, diplomats said.

The huge blast which ripped an avenue of destruction between villas in the compound in the Saudi capital occurred after Western nations issued fresh terror alerts and Washington shut its missions in the kingdom, the world's biggest oil exporter.

The bombers shot their way into the guarded 200-villa Muhaya complex and detonated at least one car packed with explosives. Most residents were families of middle-class professionals from Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinian territories.

"This is a crime against innocents ... It is an al-Qaida operation. This is a suicide operation," a Saudi security source told Reuters. Saudi Arabia, birthplace of Islam, is battling a surge in Islamist violence blamed on al-Qaida.

Saudi authorities have yet to give official casualty figures, but the official Saudi News Press Agency said it would give details about the "terror attack" later. Western diplomats and Saudi sources had conflicting tolls.

As rescuers searched amid rubble and raging fires, a senior Western diplomat said: "We don't have an exact toll ... but our best guess is that between 20 and 30 were killed and 50 to 100 were injured." The Saudi source said earlier at least two had been killed and 65 injured.

One American was injured and another was reported missing, a US diplomat said, but it was unknown if they were of dual nationality. In Washington, a US state department spokesperson said: "It appears that no US diplomats live at the compounds."

Supporters of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida have threatened Saudi rulers and Westerners who hold key jobs in the kingdom.

CAR BOMBERS/ A19

A BULLDOZER moves rubble from the smoldering ruins of a house as rescue personnel stand by at the site of Saturday's car bomb attack in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. AP

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly over the eastern section. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/11/10/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONTPAGE

'Mendoza should quit over Naia breach'

By Blanche S. Rivera and Christine O. Avendaño

SENATE President Franklin Drilon yesterday demanded the resignation of Transportation and Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza for the "serious security breach" which enabled two former military officers to take over the Ninoy Aquino International Airport control tower.

"This was a lapse in security of Naia and Secretary Mendoza should assume full responsibility. He should submit a courtesy resignation to the President," said Drilon in an interview at the Luneta Grandstand where he and other politicians attended the prayer rally of the Catholic charismatic group El Shaddai.

"If he cannot secure such a vital facility like the Naia 2 tower, which controls incoming and outgoing flights, to ensure the safety of airline passengers, how can we expect him to perform the other significant responsibilities of a DOTC secretary?" Drilon asked.

Former Air Transportation Office chief Panfilo Villaruel and his aide, Navy Lt. Ricardo Catchillar, took over the Naia control tower Friday night. They were shot dead three hours later by a police assault team despite their cries of surrender.

"Secretary Mendoza is an embarrassment. He embarrassed our country in the eyes of the world," Drilon said in a statement. "He and his subordinates in the DOTC had failed to secure the airport tower."

"It was a collapse in security for such a vital installation..how can an unauthorized person be there," Drilon said.

Drilon said he also agreed with the criticism that the police assault against Villaruel was an "overkill" because it involved "so much violence and firepower."

"Why was there was so much firepower? The Oakwood crisis ended with not a single shot being fired and there were soldiers there with powerful weapons," the Senate president told the INQUIRER.

Drilon said the President may have ordered the assault against Villaruel but noted that "it was reasonable to assume that Mendoza was advising her."

Sen. Robert Barbers, for his part, said he will seek an investigation of the tragedy "to find out the cause of several security lapses that resulted in the deaths" of Villaruel and his aide.

Barbers wants National Security Adviser Roilo Golez to investigate the incident which "may be used as a possible blueprint for terrorists in any of their future undertakings."

As this developed, militants yesterday said that rumors of a fourth Edsa uprising have been spreading in the past few days.

Movement for National Democracy secretary general Millet Morante said text messages have been telling of plans by militant groups to hold rallies in the coming days that will culminate in an "Edsa-type" demonstration.

Morante said mass organizations are set to stage more protest actions urging President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down, following the takeover of the Naia control tower.

Before he died, Villaruel in a radio interview said he took over the tower, which was built in 1994 during his term as ATO chief, to express his disgust over corruption in the government. *With Tarra Quismundo*

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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO.: 4404, SERIES OF 2003

Got a gripe? Tell it to the chief of staff

By TJ Burgonio

DISGRUNTLED military officers and personnel can soon air their grievances up to the level of Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Narciso Abaya if their immediate superiors fail to act on them within 45 days.

"If their complaint is not acted upon within 45 days, this can be transmitted to the Armed Forces chief without bypassing the chain of command," Abaya said in an interview Tuesday night.

"Then I will take the commander to task for his failure to address the complaint," he said, referring to commanding officers who are supposed to receive complaints from their men in the field and forward these to general headquarters.

Rear Admiral Mateo Mayuga, AFP deputy chief for personnel, announced the new grievance mechanism during a dialogue with officers and men of the military's Western Command in Puerto Princesa, Palawan on Thursday.

He said the military would conduct seminars to explain to its 120,000 personnel how the system works, stressing, "We'll still go by our chain of command, otherwise we will be weakened."

Abaya and other top military officials said they were experimenting with this mechanism, called enhanced grievance system, to prevent a possible re-run of the July 27 Oakwood mutiny.

Junior officers who led the failed mutiny had claimed that they staged the rebellion not to overthrow the government but to expose the corruption in it and in the military.

Military officials had admitted that the failure of its grievance system was one of the major factors that prompted over 300 griping officers and their men to take over the Oakwood hotel in late July.

The Feliciano Commission, which investigated the mutiny, confirmed this in its final report released last month, saying the military's grievance system was defective.

PCGG: Imelda checked on assets abroad

By Alcuin Papa

FORMER first lady Imelda Marcos traveled to the United States and Europe to consolidate alleged ill-gotten assets that the Presidential Commission on Good Government may not yet know about.

Commissioner Ruben Carranza told the INQUIRER the PCGG believes Marcos made the trip not only for medical and religious reasons, as she claimed, but also to look into consolidating assets for possible disposition.

This was confirmed to the INQUIRER by a source close to Marcos.

"Because of the July Supreme Court decision declaring the $680 million in escrow as ill-gotten, she is bent on consolidating other assets not included in the escrow account," said Carranza.

He was referring to the high court ruling which declared some $360 million seized from overseas Marcos bank accounts as ill-gotten. The money, placed in escrow in the Philippine National Bank while it awaits disposition, has grown to $680 million.

Carranza said "everybody knows who are in Italy and London," alluding to known Marcos associates in those countries.

After initially refusing to name them, Carranza identified former Marcos secretary Fe Roa Gimenez as being in London and Italian lawyer Mario D'Urso.

The source close to Marcos said, "D'Urso is interceding in behalf of Imelda to recover Marcos assets and artworks still not discovered by the PCGG."

Imelda is due to return to the country by Nov. 12. Her lawyer, Roberto Sison, recently told the INQUIRER she was confined in a London hospital for dehydration but has been permitted by her doctors to fly back to the Philippines.

RP to seek closer ties with Kazakhs

By Jerome Aning

THE PHILIPPINES will seek stronger economic ties with Kazakhstan since its president, Nursultan Nazarbayev, arrives today for a three-day state visit.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople said this would be the first visit of a Kazakh leader to the Philippines. Nazarbayev has ruled Kazakhstan when it was still part of the defunct Soviet Union. The country became independent in 1992.

Nazarbayev arrives at about 3:30 p.m. today at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on board a chartered flight from Singapore. He will be accorded welcome honors by President Macapagal-Arroyo at Malacañang tomorrow.

Ople said the two presidents will discuss matters of mutual interest to both countries, particularly trade, economic and investment cooperation.

Ms Macapagal is expected to bring up the possibility of cooperation with Kazakhstan in the oil and energy sector, as well as employment prospects for the local construction and energy industry due to Kazakhstan's increasing demand for more skilled and professional workers to meet its infrastructure development requirements.

Nazarbayev, accompanied by his wife, Cabinet members, businessmen and media people, will meet with top Philippine officials. He is also set to be feted by the Management Association of the Philippines.

The Philippines is the second country which Nazarbayev will visit on his Asian swing, after Singapore. He will proceed to Seoul, South Korea.

The Philippines also hopes to tap Kazakhstan as an alternative source of oil and energy, and to explore prospects of Philippine products for Kazakhstan's booming consumer market.

In 2000, oil was discovered in the Kazakh side of the Caspian Sea, the biggest find in 30 years. Kazakhstan and its neighbors formed a consortium with Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey to lay an oil pipeline to the Mediterranean Sea. The country now produces 560,000 barrels of oil per day and its economy has doubled in the last five years largely due to its growing energy sector.

Don't count me out–Gringo

By Christine O. Avendaño

OPPOSITION Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan has not given up his bid to seek the presidency in May 2004.

Honasan told the INQUIRER he will be joining the united opposition's next road show in Legaspi, Albay, tentatively set for Nov. 14.

Sen. Edgardo Angara, president of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, said on Thursday that Honasan, Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco and Sen. Noli de Castro were no longer in the opposition's pool of prospective presidential candidates.

Angara said the united opposition had narrowed its list to movie actor Fernando Poe Jr., Sen. Panfilo Lacson and Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

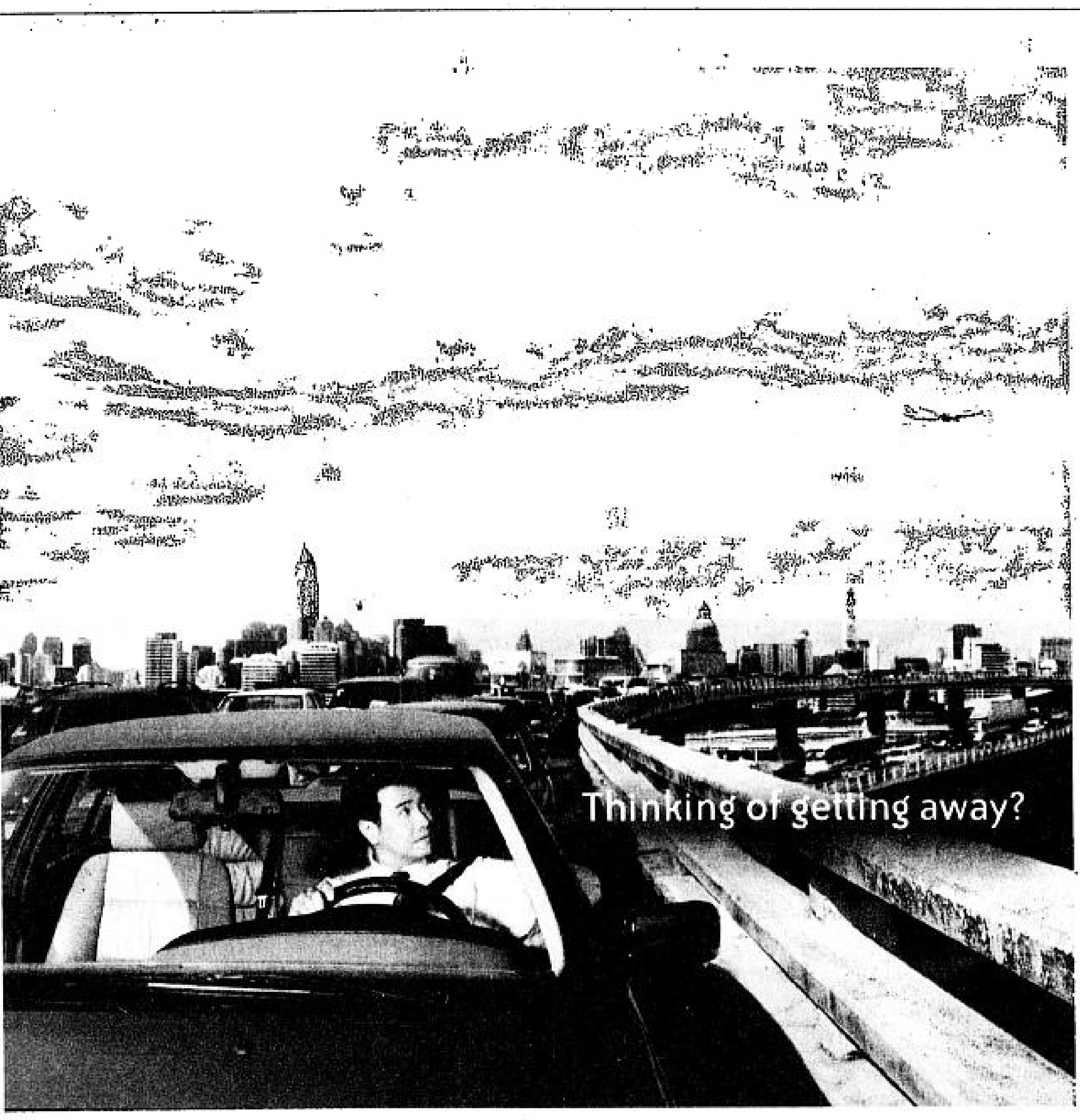
But Honasan said he is actually "waiting for the selection process" of the opposition.

The senator, whose term ends in 2004, admitted though that he has gotten "overtures" to run either for congressman or governor in Bicol. Honasan is a native of Sorsogon.

"But I have not considered these options," he said in a phone interview. "It's not my intention to give up my presidential bid."

Honasan said he also intends to support the bid of the Philippine Guardian Brotherhood Inc. to be accredited as a party-list group in Congress.

In Calamba City, Ernesto Macahiya, national spokesperson of the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc., yesterday told the INQUIRER that the PGBI, with over a million members, has not pulled its support for the senator and his controversial National Recovery Program (NRP). *With Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*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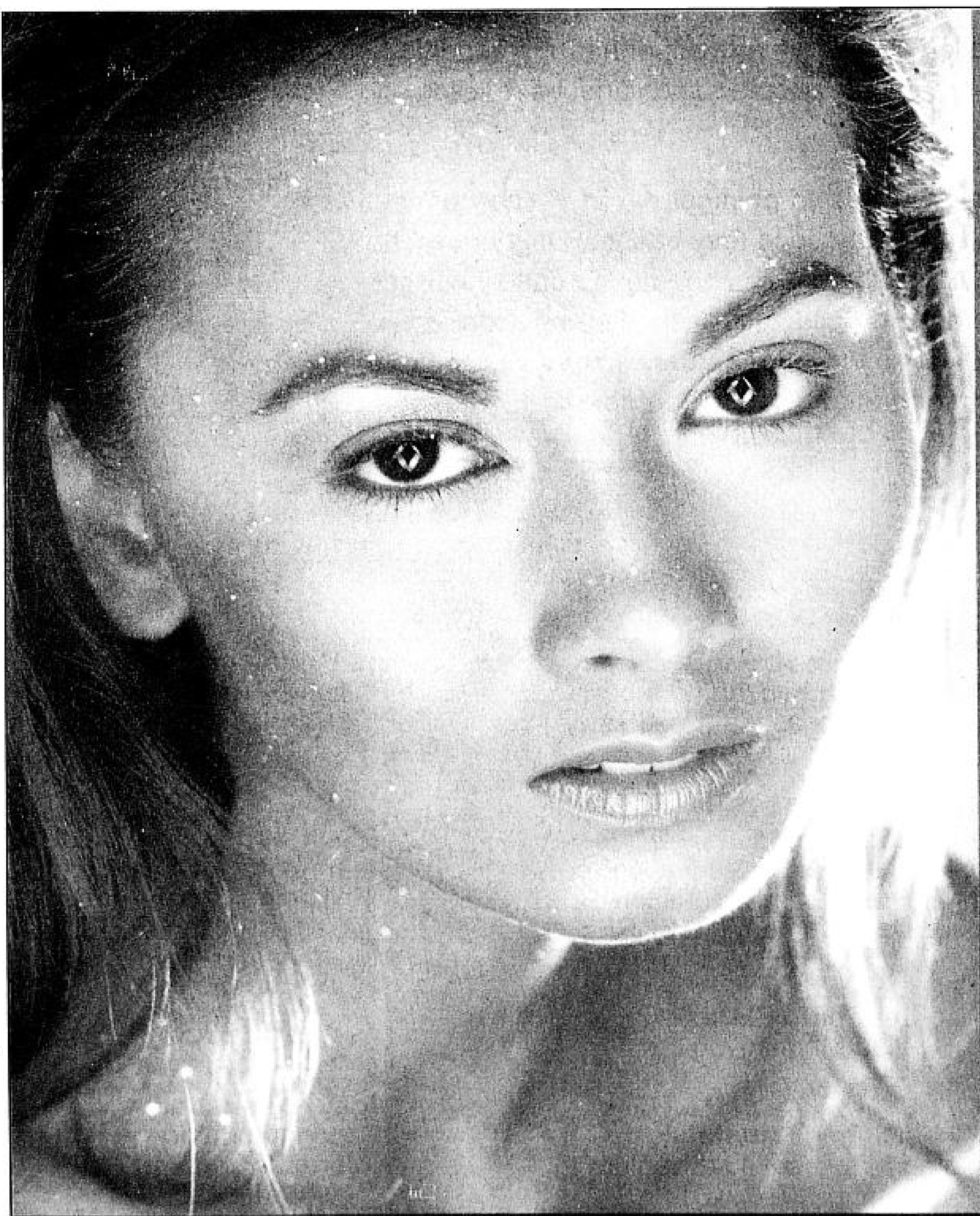

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DAVIDE: DON'T SUCCUMB TO THE UNHOLY ALLIANCE

Once again the country is pushed to the wall by naked political opportunism while the people continue to suffer in dire poverty. Political minions in the "hollow" halls of Congress have joined forces with Eduardo "**Pacman**" Danding Cojuangco, Jr. in a display of political arrogance.

Without regard for constitutional procedures and traditions and without a hoot for common welfare, they now seek to destroy all the Filipinos have stood for and have cherished as a democratic nation. The nominal target is the Chief Justice and the Supreme Court and the billions of coco levy funds. The ultimate victim on the firing line, however, will be our democratic institutions and our people. With them gone so will whatever is left of our economy.

The impeachment ploy is without doubt aimed at forestalling a final Supreme Court decision on the coco levy cases. Danding Cojuangco and his cohorts have been alarmed at the independence shown by the present Davide-led Supreme Court. In the past, Cojuangco had his way with the Supreme Court, notably the one chaired by former Chief Justice Narvasa. For millions of reasons, the Narvasa Supreme Court invariably sat on the levy cases or ruled in Cojuangco's favor. Now times have changed with a Supreme Court and a Chief Justice who cannot be bought. It has thus become imperative for Danding Cojuangco to have Davide impeached. Waiting in the wings is another justice who had always voted in Cojuangco's favor and whose son is a ranking officer at San Miguel Corporation.

Davide's impeachment is a ploy to forestall a final Supreme Court decision on the 130 billion peso coco levy case.

The small coconut farmers, 30 million strong including our families, are fed up. We have waited nearly two decades for the resolution of the coco levy cases and controversy. We are dismayed and angered by Danding Cojuangco's unmitigated gall to use his political minions in Congress to serve his selfish ends and push us deeper into the pits of poverty where we and our families have wallowed for ages.

We feel betrayed by Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

We feel betrayed by Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and the Lakas Party led by Jose de Venecia. NPC never had the numbers in the Lower House, yet it succeeded in its machinations because of Lakas. GMA may not have a cut deal but obviously she needed Cojuangco for May 2004 with the likes of Roco, Lacson and FPJ running against her. By allowing Lakas members to help the impeachment case prosper, she was as guilty as if she were actively pushing for the impeachment herself. That she is now involved in the so-called win-win negotiations is merely a result of her now reading that the impeachment attempt has backfired. The fallout is now reaching her. The people's spontaneous reaction and anger was misread or underestimated.

We, the small coconut farmers, call for a stop to this political circus. The coconut farmers have waited long enough for the resolution of the coco levy cases. Only under the leadership of Davide did the cases move in courts. We therefore condemn the unholy alliance of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Jose de Venecia and Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. for causing a monstrous crisis to perpetrate themselves in power. We urge the courts to **immediately resolve the coco levy cases** and not fall hostage to an evil manipulation of our democratic institutions.

We condemn the unholy alliance of GMA, de Venecia, and Danding Cojuangco.

Signed

Rolando M. Bongbong
Small Coconut Farmers
Organizations

Oscar F. Santos
Coconut Industry Reform Movement
(COIR)

Ceferino R. Rivera Sr.
LUZVIMINDA

Romeo M. Rubion
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Palace, PNP deny overkill in assault on Naia tower

From page A1

the lives of thousands of inbound passengers and airport personnel at the site were at risk."

Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., PNP chief, yesterday directed the CIDG to find out if members of the ASG had followed the rules of engagement.

The CIDG investigation is limited to police procedures because the Department of Transportation and Communication will look into security lapses that enabled Villaruel to seize the high-security tower at around 11:30 p.m. Friday, according to Director Ricardo de Leon, PNP spokesperson.

De Leon noted that police were called to intervene only at around 2 a.m. Saturday. Airport officials had handled the situation, he said.

A vital question the CIDG would have to address was why the ASG special operations unit killed Villaruel although he had already said he and his aide were surrendering the moment they saw police barging into the control room. His desperate plea was heard on radio because he was then being interviewed through a cellular phone when police went for the kill.

Another unresolved issue is whether the ASG used too much force in subduing Villaruel and Catchillar. Armed with pistols, Villaruel earlier claimed that he had with him several armed military men. The former aviation chief, it turned out, was accompanied only by his aide.

Upon arrival from Hong Kong yesterday, former President Fidel V. Ramos called for an independent investigation.

Calling the death of Villaruel an unnecessary tragedy, Ramos downplayed the retired officer's capability to pose any threat to the government. "He was a well meaning and idealistic person."

He said Villaruel's death was a personal loss. "I knew him as an inventor, a pilot and president of the group of sons and daughters of World War II veterans," Ramos said.

Edgardo Manda, Manila International Airport Authority general manager, said the police did not know if the suspects were armed only with handguns or if they had other weapons such as bombs. Villaruel, in an interview over several radio stations before he died, said he and his men had planted explosives in the tower.

Manda said eight members of the SWAT team and the ASG chief, Senior Supt. Andres Caro, stormed the topmost floor of the tower where Villaruel and his aide had holed up. Assistant general manager Angel Atutubo, who is in charge of MIAA's security and emergency services, accompanied the team.

Deafening gunfire

Caro said his team did not hear Villaruel shouting, "We surrender!" He said that after the group blasted the door of the tower open, someone began firing at them.

"According to our standard operating procedures, we had to fire back. Of course, we could no longer hear anyone speaking or shouting since the gunfire was deafening," Caro said.

When his group was summoned to the scene at around 1:30 a.m. with orders from Ebdane to assault the tower, Caro said he had assumed that the negotiations were either over or had failed.

Manda said efforts by airport authorities to communicate with Villaruel had failed.

"Villaruel did not make any effort to reach us. And we could not contact him. It seemed he preferred speaking to the media. We can't monitor all radio stations since we were busy handling the crisis and setting up an alternative control tower. I was busy on the phone and giving instructions all that time," he said.

Manda said the only way they learned about Villaruel's demands was through the air controllers whom the latter sent out after taking over the tower.

Citing what the air controllers told him, Manda said he concluded that Villaruel's demands were "incoherent" and would therefore make efforts at negotiation fruitless.

"According to the air controllers, Villaruel jumped from one topic to another. He told them he was determined to stake out in the tower and to die there if necessary," the airport chief said.

Manda said that while Villaruel and Catchillar were holding the tower, Naia operations had been endangered.

Back-up towers

But Villaruel's former associates in the air force and the aviation industry said the tower's radio operations could have been easily transferred to an alternate communications center and the tower itself could have been isolated by cutting off transmission cables and disabling radio antennas.

Atutubo said that Villaruel's know-how in air traffic operations required that he and Catchillar be "neutralized."

"He could have barked instructions to incoming aircraft, causing them either to collide in mid-air or plow through nearby residential subdivisions," Atutubo said.

Officials . . .

From page A1

the imagination" reports that Villaruel had waited for an armed contingent after he and his aide seized the control tower of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport 2 late Friday night.

"Whoever is spreading this news is doing a disservice to the country," Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, military information officer, said. "We have the duty to inform the public of the truth so we will give them only validated information, not rumors."

Lucero said the military had monitored no unauthorized troop movements or received any report referring to armed groups rushing to Villaruel's side when the retired Air Force captain seized the high-security tower.

Hours after police ended the Naia crisis, two military officials floated the idea that Villaruel had not acted alone.

A ranking Army officer involved in counter-intelligence operations said Villaruel's action had nothing to do with airing his gripes against the government, considering the purported recruitment of active soldiers by retired military officials for yet another destabilization effort against the Macapagal administration.

TNT found in car

The officer's theory that the Villaruel caper was part of another coup was boosted by the discovery of a green Mitsubishi Galant sedan at the Caltex service station on the West Service Road in Merville, Parañaque, at 9:15 p.m. Saturday.

Found in the car were some four pounds of TNT explosives with a time fuse, an AFP vehicle access pass, and a Philippine AXA Insurance identification card bearing the name of Villaruel's bodyguard.

Drilon quoted Abaya as telling him that no troop movement was monitored during that time.

He said he knew Villaruel and found him to be "soft-spoken" and a "calm" person.

Saying he personally knew Villaruel, administration Sen. Robert Barbers expressed the belief that what the latter did was not an act of terrorism because he had never been associated with any leftist or rightist groups.

"I believe Villaruel's actions were his personal way to express his patriotic concern on what is happening," Barbers said in a statement.

He said Villaruel was a "man of principle" as he lamented as a "big waste" the outcome of the takeover crisis.

"He was a great loss to the country and his death is mourned," the senator said.

Copa

Pastor "Boy" Saycon, secretary general of the Council on Philippine Affairs (Copa) who claims to have known Villaruel for the last 12 years, yesterday defended Villaruel, saying he was "one who would never allow himself to get dragged into a destabilization plot."

Amid rumors that some groups were planning to take advantage of the Davide impeachment case to stage a coup, Saycon said Villaruel could not have been part of such a plot because he was opposed to the ouster of the Chief Justice.

Saycon claimed Villaruel was even present at a recent anti-impeachment rally at the Batasan complex, during which the former ATO chief supposedly phoned him to ask about the Copa's activities in connection with the crisis. Like Copa, Villaruel believed that the complaint against the Chief Justice had "lapses," he added.

Villaruel's complaints, ranging from corruption in government to his frustrations as an inventor, were the main things that drove him to take over the airport control tower in a desperate attempt to get his message across, the Copa official claimed.

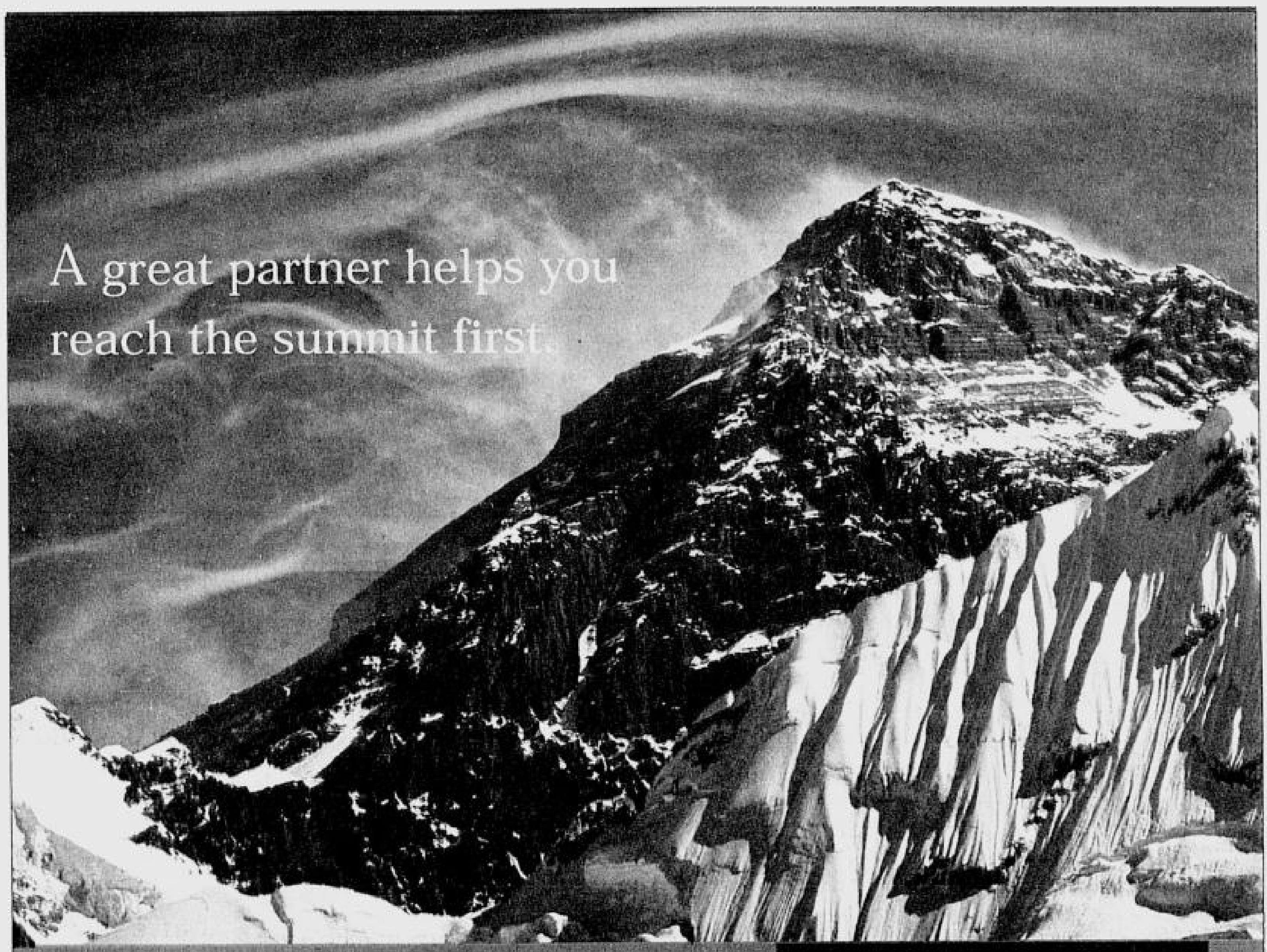
Saycon said he first noticed Villaruel's "idealism" when they began working for the United People Power Movement, the forerunner of former President Fidel Ramos' Lakas party, in 1991.

PPM

Villaruel was also involved in the National Recovery Program of Dr. Emmanuel Yap in 1993 and later in the People's Patriotic Movement (PPM), he said.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER, the PPM yesterday disowned Villaruel and condemned his decision to seize the airport tower.

"He broke the law, placed many innocent lives at risk and was intent on holding the entire airport and country hostage," PPM president Antonio Habana said in the statement.



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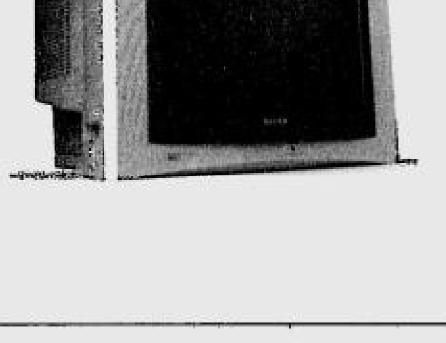
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DENR lowers vehicle emission standards

By Volt Contreras

FOUR years after Congress passed the Clean Air Act, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has found the law's anti-smoke belching provisions to be "unrealistic."

In a move expected to raise a howl from environmentalists, DENR Secretary Elisea Gozun on Friday relaxed the emission standards set by the celebrated 1999 law for land vehicles, saying, "they are very stringent and not applicable in the local setting."

"Basically, we revised the emission standards because we do not believe in unrealistic regulations," Gozun said in a statement from Cebu.

"If we cannot enforce this unrealistic regulation, we will lose our credibility," she added.

The standards were lowered by the DENR in Administrative Order 51.

For vehicles with gasoline engines, allowable carbon monoxide emissions are now up to 4.5 percent by volume and hydrocarbon emissions at 800 parts per million when the vehicle is idling.

The original limits under the law were a low of .5 percent allowable carbon monoxide emission and hydrocarbon emissions of 100 parts per million.

For diesel vehicles, the original light absorption coefficient standard set at 1.2 was raised to 2.5. The light absorption coefficient determines the amount of black carbon present.

Gozun said the new limits were meant to "ensure the transport sector's compliance with the provisions of the Clean Air Act."

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Lack of probers hindering gov't lifestyle check

By Armand Nocum

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman is hoping to strengthen its ability to go after grafters in government with the creation of a Bureau of Investigators under it.

In an interview on Friday, Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo said the lull in the filing of graft charges against officials who failed the government's lifestyle check was due to the lack of investigators to do field work.

"Our biggest problem is that we have no field investigators," Marcelo said.

He said he had written President Macapagal-Arroyo about creating the new bureau.

The last time Malacañang's Transparency Group, which probes the lifestyles of Presidential appointees, filed a graft case against officials was in September.

Marcelo said that if the President approves the investigators bureau, this would add about 65 field investigators and 16 special prosecutors to his office by the end of the year.

He said the new bureau would be patterned after Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Graft and Corruption (ICAG), which has been credited with stamping out corruption in the previously graft-ridden government of the Chinese territory.

"They were very successful because they have a core group of 800 field investigators," he said.

He said the Ombudsman's Office is planning to tap ICAG's former head, Tony Kwok, to train the new investigators in going after grafters in government.

L.Castillo;73

LEONILA Acosta Castillo died on Nov. 5 in Batangas City at the age of 73.

She is survived by her husband, Victorino; children Luz and Jun Ibarreta, Nelia and Nomi Villena, Rhona and Rene Ceuto, Virgilio and Mila, Cesar and Florian, Alex and Gina, Norberto and Zenaida, Noel and Arlene, Myrna, Cynthia, Amor, Marita, Rowena and Grace, and grandchildren.

Her remains lie at the family home at 316 Corinthian St., Villa Peñafrancia, Bolbok, Batangas City. Interment will be on Nov. 12 at the Mt. Zion Memorial Park after the 1 p.m. mass at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Batangas City.

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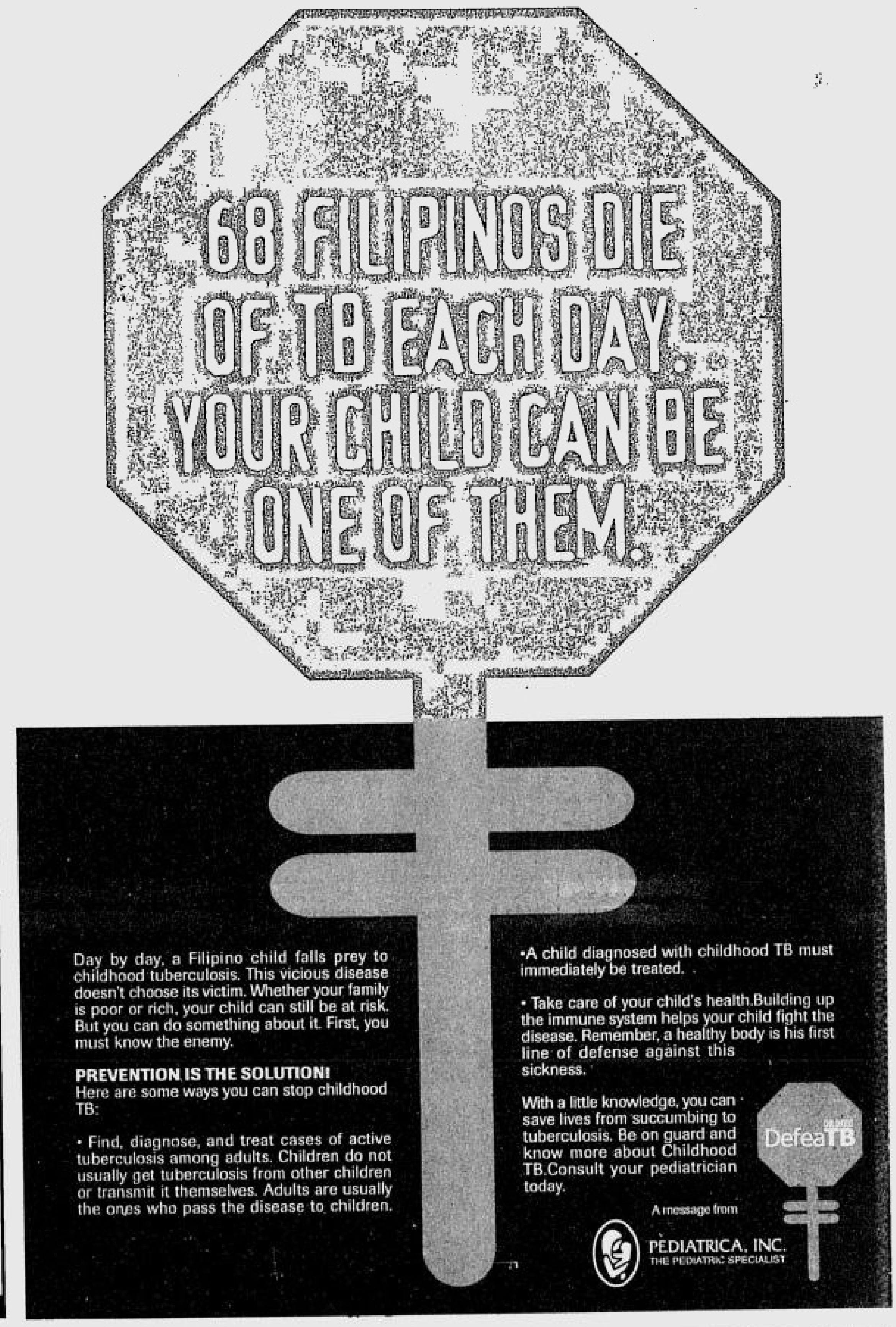
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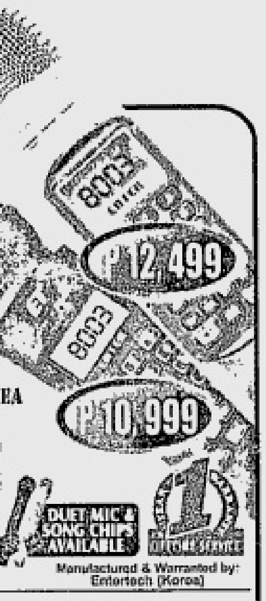

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THE CONTROVERSIAL Supreme Court cottage.

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Problems haunted SC cottage project

From page A1

housing-related problems.

The construction of the controversial Baguio cottages for two new Supreme Court justices—today the subject of congressional innuendo—was dogged by legal and then financial troubles.

It didn't help that, while the SC compound sits on prime real estate, its 13 other cottages have weathered almost 40 years without undergoing major repairs—if the records of the city engineering office are anything to go by.

Documents reveal that the "Baguio Cottage Project" had to confront a decades-old legal question about the high court's property, thanks to Presidential Proclamation No. 142 issued by President Macapagal-Arroyo's father.

The high court has administered two judicial compounds since 1964, after President Diosdado Macapagal ceded to the Supreme Court 7,808 square meters of the old Government Center property.

But in two instances last year, the Supreme Court had to justify the construction.

City engineer Leo Bernardez said the high court needed a clearance from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources because the new cottages were located on 429 square meters of land that happened to lie outside the proclamation's territorial delineation.

"I had to ask for a clarification because we found that the proclamation area fell short of the area (the SC) wants developed," Bernardez said.

A March 5, 2003 certification that was issued by Victor Carantes, chief of DENR-Cordillera's land management division, however, showed that the extended section of land did indeed belong to the court.

Documents also revealed that the Supreme Court needed to justify the existence of two new "residences."

Crucial issue

According to a Feb. 5, 2002 letter issued to Bernardez by the court's committee on halls of justice (CHOJ), the new cottages adhered to the condition set by the Macapagal proclamation.

But for the Supreme Court in December last year, the project's more crucial issue was its financing.

Antonio Dujua, chair of the court's bid and award committee (BAC), wrote Davide asking for assurance that the new Baguio cottages would be subsidized by the Judiciary Development Fund.

"Although the funding is chargeable against the JDF, the BAC would like to respectfully request for a confirmation from Your Honor that indeed (the cottages) will be charged against the JDF," Dujua wrote.

He said Ester Eje, chief of the Supreme Court's budget division, needed "an authoritative direction as to the source of the budget allocation for the Baguio Cottages Project ... considering that under the law only the Chief Justice can authorize any disbursement from the JDF."

Dujua said Davide would be disbursing P33 million for the project that was described as "the construction of two units of two-story residential cottages and one unit of two-story duplex cottage" for the high court's Baguio property.

Survived the quake

Bernardez noted that the cottages survived many crises, including the July 1990 earthquake.

"The original cottages were built using pinewood which is sturdy. All Baguio structures in the 1960s were (made of) pinewood. But the cottages are more than 30 years old and we don't know if repairs have been done there," Bernardez said.

A lawyer, who frequents the cottages during the high court's summer sessions, recalls stepping on rickety floorboards and walking under dripping ceilings.

The lawyer said the justices, in fact, shy away from the old cottages.

"They usually stay in hotels or the (Baguio Country Club) and leave the cottages to their staff," the source said.

What the judiciary's contractor, Gulf Builders and Development Corp., is building is actually a single two-level duplex cottage that would accommodate two justices and their respective staff members.

Although more modern than the 13 original cottages, the new duplex cottages are "not as ostentatious as how congressmen describe these to the public," Bernardez said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, November 10, 2003
32nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	**Wis 1:1-7**
Gospel:	**Lk 17:1-6**

Jesus said to his disciples, "Scandals will necessarily come and cause people to fall; but woe to the one who has brought it about. It would be better for that one to be thrown into the sea with a millstone around the neck. Truly this would be better for that person than to cause one of these little ones to fall.

"Be careful. If your brother offends you, rebuke him and if he is sorry, forgive him. And if he offends you seven times in a day but says to you seven times: 'I'm sorry,' forgive him."

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." And the Lord said, "If you have faith even the size of a mustard seed, you may say to this tree: 'Be uprooted and plant yourself in the sea,' and it will obey you."

Commentary

"Temptations to sin are sure to come; but woe to him by whom they come. It would be better for him if a millstone were hung round his neck and he were cast into the sea, than he should cause one of these little ones to sin." Who are the little ones? For Luke, they refer to the poor and the oppressed, the marginalized of society. They also refer to the little children who look upon their elders as models and examples. In one experiment conducted in an elementary school, kids were shown a cartoon strip depicting a little boy shooting the people around him including his parents, brothers and sisters and other household members. After the show, the kids were asked for their reaction. The majority enjoyed the show and did not show shock or revilement. This only shows how the media with its theme of violence has poisoned the minds of children. They don't distinguish anymore between right or wrong, what is important and what is simply entertaining. The ages between 0-4 are the most critical, almost 70% of the child's character is formed by absorbing the outside influence. A home where there is so much violence, fighting, vices, bad words, and lies, is a sure stumbling block for the little ones.

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Automatic counting machines (ACM) - the answer to this dream

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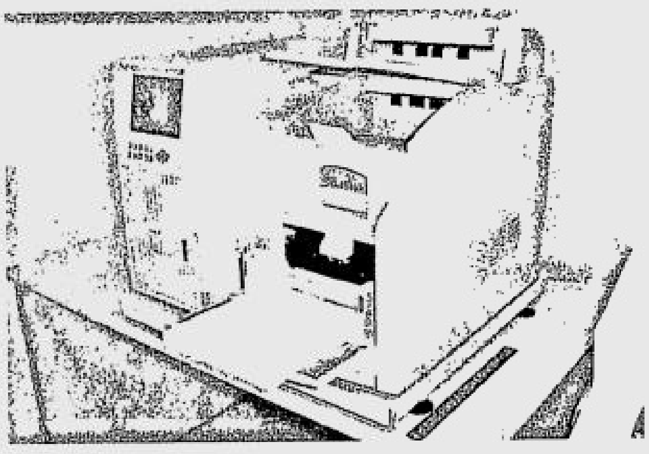
- ☑ Fake and recycled ballots can be detected



Mega Pacific eSolutions' stand-alone automatic counting machines (ACM), as per specifications attested by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), will have a reading accuracy of 100 percent provided that the ballots are shaded properly; accurately read and report the date and time of counted ballots in each precinct; print election returns and other election results; detect or reject fake or counterfeit ballots; read two-sided printed ballots in one pass; detect and prevent counted ballots from being counted more than once. It does not have a mouse or keyboard. It does not allow input of data from external devices.

The Department of Science and Technology has certified that Mega Pacific's automatic counting machines are 100% accurate

DOST Technical Evaluation Committee chairman Rolando Viloria, in his letter to COMELEC Commissioner Resurreccion Borra, stated that " after experiencing the present performance of the ACM, the DOST has no doubt whatsoever that the ACM can be 100 percent accurate in reading and counting the votes if each voter will do his part in accomplishing the ballots properly". DOST is mandated by Republic Act 8436 to test and evaluate the accuracy of machines.

The Mega Pacific consortium, the winner, is key to this dream

	TIMC Loser	MEGA PACIFIC Winner
BID	1.297 B	1.248 B
COVERAGE	NCR & MINDANAO ONLY 36% OF VOTES	NATIONWIDE 100% OF VOTES

*IF TIMC WERE TO IMPLEMENT NATIONWIDE, IT WILL COST P3.602 B

The member firms of the consortium are well established names in their fields of expertise and core business.

Mega Pacific eSolutions Inc. The lead proponent of the consortium is a domestic corporation with a paid-in capital of P300 million, more than 10 percent of the project cost. Mega Pacific eSolutions stockholders are veteran entrepreneurs who have supplied the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) with election paraphernalia for more than two decades.

SK C&C, South Korea's most advanced information technology (IT) service provider, is providing the automatic counting machines (ACM). The same firm provided the ACM which were used in the 2002 local and national elections in South Korea where the average number of voters for both elections was 50 million. SK C&C has 1,856 employees and its 2002 annual revenue was US$ 775 million.

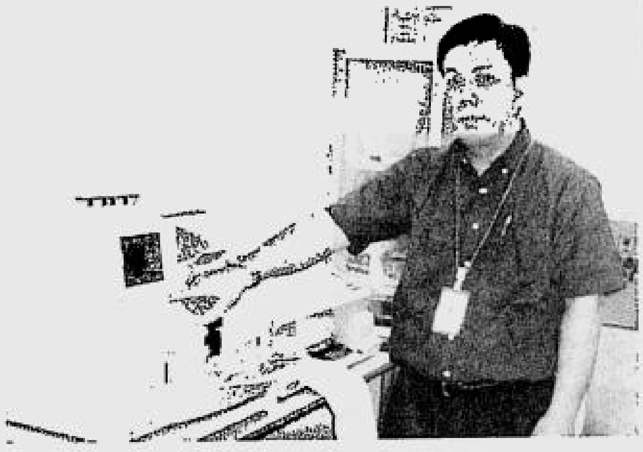
We Solv Open Computing Inc. is the communications and networking subsidiary of Fujitsu Philippines Inc. It has the expertise, experience and proven track record in information technology solutions. We Solv will deploy and install the ACM as well as provide the technicians before, during and after the May 10, 2004 elections.

Election.com Inc. is a leading election software and services company based in New York and London. Election.com, a wholly owned subsidiary of Accenture, will develop the election canvassing software for COMELEC. It is a leading provider of complete election management solutions - voter registration and database management. It has a team of election experts who have managed over 400 elections in Europe and the USA.

ePLDT is the information and communications technology company of PLDT. ePLDT will provide the secure Verisign digital certificates and data encryption component of this project. Verisign is used to protect 80 percent of the financial transactions in the world and is compliant with R.A. 8792 E-Commerce Act.

Mega Pacific ACM is faster, more reliable and more efficient

	TIMC Loser	MEGA PACIFIC Winner
NO. OF BALLOTS / MIN	10 BALLOTS single-face reading	50 BALLOTS back-to-back reading
BALLOT FEED METHOD	MANUAL	AUTOMATIC
NO. OF OPERATORS / MCHINE	2-3	1



The loser's machines can only count 10 ballots per minute, requiring three(3) operators per machine because the ballots are fed into their machines manually. Mega Pacific eSolutions machines, on the other hand, can count 50 ballots per minute while requiring only one (1) operator using the machines high-tech automatic feeding feature. The loser's machines can read only one side of the ballot and cannot detect fake ballots. On the other hand, Mega Pacific eSolutions' ACM can read both sides of the ballot simultaneously and can detect both fake and previously read ballots with Magnetic Ink Character Recognition as required by law.It will print seven(7) copies of election results in one operation.

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

3 more US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq—A senior United States official insisted that the US military had the upper hand in the escalating war in Iraq, on a day when three soldiers died in roadside ambushes and the international Red Cross said it was closing two main offices due to deteriorating security.

US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage described Iraq as a "war zone," but noted that "we have the momentum in this process."

"I'm absolutely convinced we have a very solid plan to go out and get these people who are killing us and killing Iraqis," he told reporters Saturday during a visit to Iraq.

The sharp rise in the number of attacks against the troops of the US-led coalition and their allies in the Iraqi security services, and the guerrillas' apparent ability to strike at will, has prompted fears that the initiative in the conflict is slipping from the coalition's hands.

The three latest American fatalities put the number of US soldiers killed in action in Iraq at 152, since May 1, when US President George W. Bush declared major combat over in the war that ousted Saddam Hussein.

Washington blames attacks on US forces on die-hard supporters of Saddam Hussein and foreign Muslim militants.

During a news conference in the heavily guarded compound housing Iraq's US-led administration, Armitage appeared anxious to ease such fears.

"I'm pretty convinced after this short visit ... that we will take this fight to the enemy," he said.

On Saturday evening guerrillas attempted a mortar attack on the headquarters of the US-led administration in Baghdad for the third time in a week. One round landed near a railway station not far from the administration complex but there were no casualties, Iraqi police at the scene said.

At the same time, coalition troops blocked traffic across the Jumhuriya Bridge near the US command compound known as the "Green Zone." For the first time since the end of major combat in May, US jets and helicopters circled overhead through the night sky with their navigation lights turned off.

Separately, the military said on Sunday that a soldier from the 1st Armored Division died and another was wounded when their vehicle struck a mine in Baghdad's Wehda district late Saturday.

Two soldiers of the 82nd Airborne Division died also Saturday when a homemade bomb exploded beside their vehicle about in Fallujah, a center of Sunni Muslim resistance 64 km west of Baghdad, the military said.

Their deaths brought to 36 the number of American soldiers who have died in Iraq this month.

In Geneva, the international Red Cross said Saturday it was temporarily closing its offices in Baghdad and Basra because of the security situation. The Red Cross had planned to cut back on its foreign staff of 30 people after the Oct. 27 truck-bombing at its Baghdad office but wanted to keep the offices open with reduced staff.

"We decided that in view of an extremely dangerous and volatile situation that we would have to temporarily close our offices in Baghdad and Basra," said Florian Westphal, spokesperson for the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The Oct. 27 suicide car bomb attack on the ICRC headquarters in Baghdad was part of a coordinated series that also targeted three Iraqi police stations on the same day and killed at least 35 people.

Westphal said the organization was studying how to keep its work going on a reduced level throughout the country. He said the ICRC had decided against seeking protection from coalition forces—which would undermine its policy of strict neutrality in world conflicts.

"We would run the risk that people on the ground would think, 'OK, because they walk around specifically with coalition force protection, this means that they are now allied and work together with the coalition,'" he told AP. "Obviously for our way of working we have to be neutral. There is just no way around it."

AP, Reuters

Bush's allies in Senate halt Iraq probe

WASHINGTON—The leader of US Senate Republicans has suspended a politically damaging inquiry into possible inadequacies or misuse of pre-war intelligence on Iraq, saying it was being manipulated "to politically wound the president of the United States."

The announcement by Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist in a floor speech Friday capped a heated political row in the upper congressional chamber triggered by a leaked Democratic memorandum outlining a strategy for using the probe for political gain.

"At this moment of peril in our nation's history, as our intelligence agencies and our armed forces in the Middle East are at war against our mortal enemies, those responsible for this memo appear to be more focused on winning the White House than they are on winning the war against terror," thundered the Tennessee Republican.

He demanded that the author of the document, presumed to be a member of the Democratic staff on the Senate Intelligence Committee, step forward and identify himself or herself—and the intended recipient of the memo.

Committee Democrats are also being asked to disavow what Frist called "this partisan attack" on the panel's integrity.

Frist said the author must also issue a personal apology to committee chairman Pat Roberts for "the manipulative tone and injurious content of this document." "Only with the fulfillment of the three steps mentioned above will it be possible for the committee to resume its work in an effective and bipartisan manner—a manner deserving of the confidence of other members of the Senate and the Executive Branch," the majority leader concluded.

AFP

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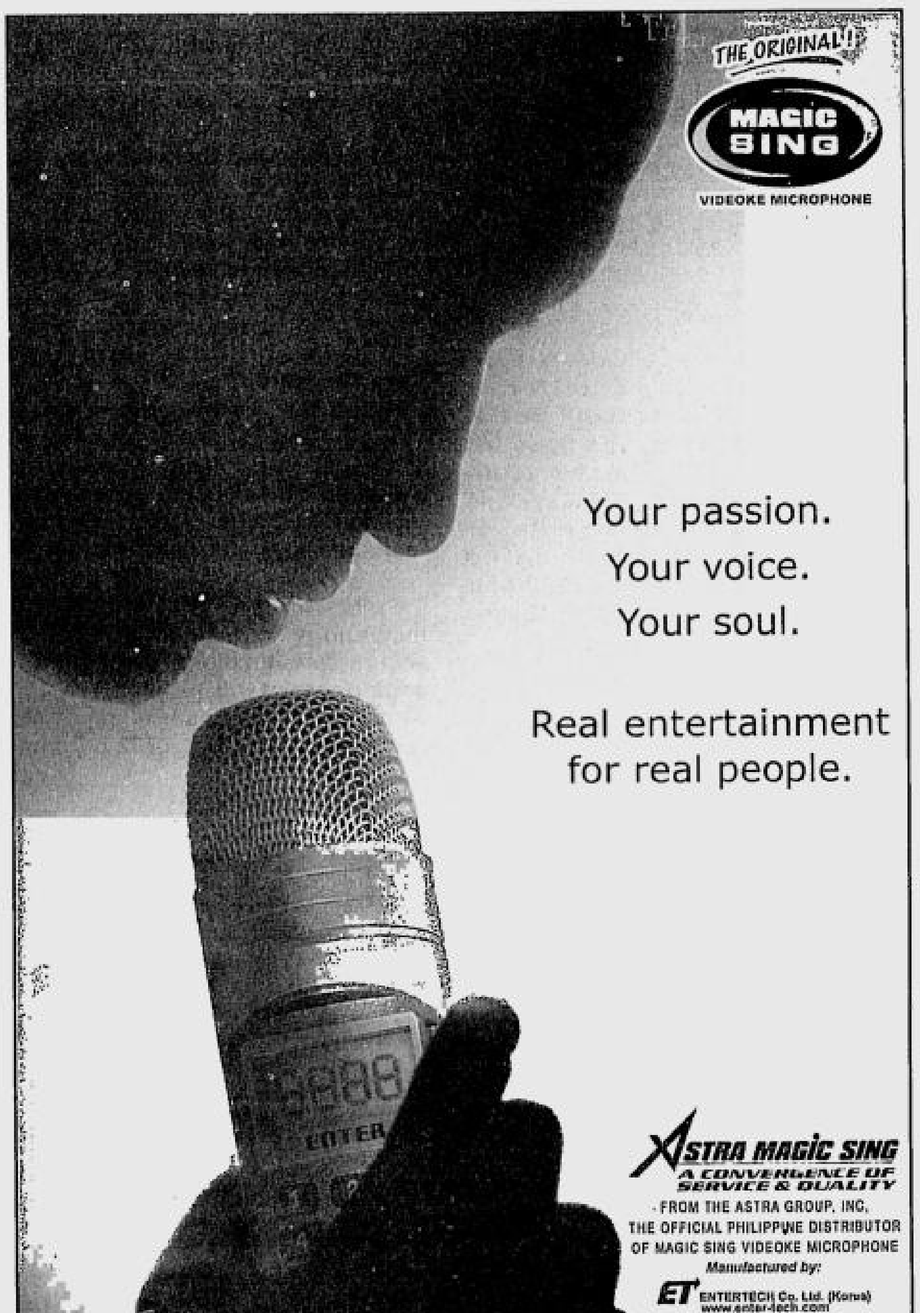

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Koizumi seeks reform mandate in Japan polls

TOKYO—Voters in Japan began casting their ballots on Sunday in a general election that will determine whether Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has clear public backing to press on with his economic reforms.

Opinion polls suggest a three-way coalition led by Koizumi's Liberal Democratic Party will win a comfortable majority in the first Lower House election since he took office in April 2001.

But the popular prime minister also needs the LDP itself—a mix of reformists and foot-dragging conservatives—to keep its majority so he can claim a new mandate for an agenda of public spending cuts, privatization and cures for ailing banks.

Whether he achieves that goal could depend on last-minute decisions by Japan's "floating voters," who shun party ties and by some estimates account for up to 50 percent of the electorate of more than 100 million in a nation of about 127 million people.

Rain was forecast for much of Japan later on Sunday, which is likely to put a damper on voter turnout, especially among the non-affiliated, who tend to go to the polls late in the day.

The election pits the dapper Koizumi's LDP and its two partners mainly against the Democratic Party, led by the less charismatic Naoto Kan, a former grass-roots activist.

Keiichi Ozawa, a floating voter who did go to the polls early on Sunday, said the Democrats could become a viable alternative.

"I want the Democrats to be stronger so there will be a second party. I think this is important," said the 40-year-old civil servant, who voted in the northern city of Morioka.

The LDP has ruled Japan for most of the past half century by catering to core supporters such as farmers, small businesses and construction firms. Many of its candidates oppose reform.

Now, with its traditional support base eroding and the number of floating voters growing, the LDP is hoping Koizumi's personal popularity will translate into a decisive win.

Koizumi has said, however, that he will keep the alliance with his partners, the Buddhist-backed New Komeito and tiny New Conservative Party, even if the LDP wins a majority, since their support is vital in parliament's upper chamber.

The Democrats hope their manifesto—including pledges to slash public works spending and loosen the grip of bureaucrats on policy—will persuade voters they are the true party of change.

Koizumi is given mixed marks on reform, with some criticizing him for going too fast and others saying he has been too timid.

Newly merged with a smaller party, the Democrats look set to boost their numbers in the 480-member chamber from the 137 seats they hold now, moving Japan closer to the true two-party system many voters seem to want. *Reuters*

Loose crocodile in HK eludes catchers

HONG KONG—A crocodile on the loose has Hong Kong officials at wit's end after a week-long hunt in which the animal slipped unscathed from a trap—and critics said Sunday it's time to bring in the professionals.

The elusive croc has become a running source of amusement in Hong Kong, with newspapers providing frequent updates on failed attempts to catch the 1.2-meter beast.

Officials armed with tranquilizer darts approached the croc in a suburban marsh on Monday, but scared it away. So they switched to cage traps baited with chicken.

Journalists have had better luck capturing the reptile on camera. The Apple Daily newspaper on Sunday ran a photo of the reptile poking its snout out of the water and toying with the bait in one cage.

"Croc plays conservation department like a fool," the headline read.

The hunt has provided some laughs, but patience is wearing thin.

"The dithering must stop. Bring on the experts," the South China Morning Post said Sunday in an editorial, which called Hong Kong's efforts "comical."

The government has consulted with professional hunters and is considering hiring one, said spokeswoman Viola Kwan of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. *AP*

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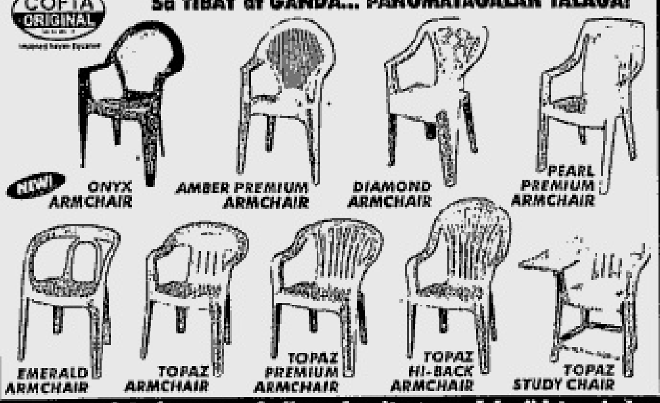

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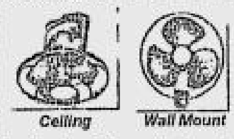

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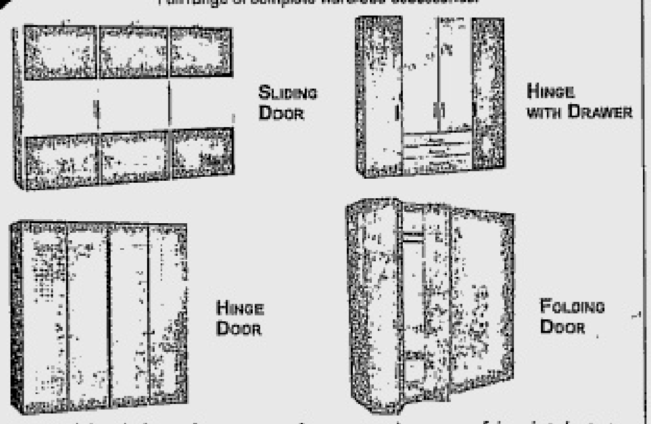

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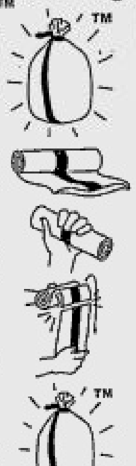

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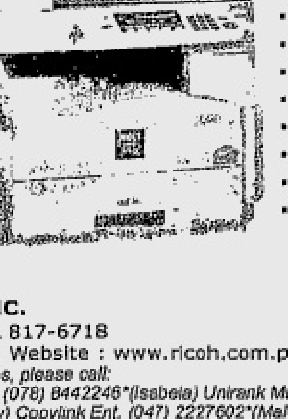
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Britons still in the dark about Charles scandal

By Peter Graff

LONDON—Scandal-hungry Britons were forced to read between the lines on Sunday as weekly tabloids—despite promising to tell all—stuck to a ban on printing details of an "incident" Prince Charles said never took place.

In one of the weirdest scandals yet to befall the hapless House of Windsor, Charles has denied doing something—without saying what it is—and a court has banned publishing the tale.

The Mail on Sunday, which set off the bombshell a week ago with an announcement it had been barred from running a scoop "of the deepest public interest," promised on this week's front page: "WORLD EXCLUSIVE—CHARLES AND HIS VALET: THE TRUE STORY."

But inside it omitted the key details of what, exactly, it was that one of Charles' servants says he saw the prince doing with another servant.

The prince was due back in Britain after wrapping up a two-week foreign trip with a stop in the Gulf state of Oman as guest of his friend Sultan Qaboos bin Said. Charles has studiously ignored the scandal while his aides scrambled to douse it.

The details have appeared in newspapers abroad and on the Internet, but publishing them in Britain is banned by the gag order. Under arcane libel laws, any news organization that can be seen in Britain and is aware of the ban is bound by it.

An employee at a leading distributor of foreign newspapers in Britain told Reuters it was keeping Italian and Spanish titles off newsstands for fear of falling foul of the law.

The banned allegation comes from a former palace servant, George Smith, who also sparked an earlier scandal by saying another male servant had raped him many years before. An investigation found no evidence to support that charge.

The Mail said Smith recorded both his rape charge and the allegation that he witnessed an incident involving Prince Charles on a tape he gave to Charles' ex-wife Princess Diana.

Diana's former butler Paul Burrell discussed the tape without revealing its contents in his memoir, published last month, helping to whet tabloid appetites for royal gossip.

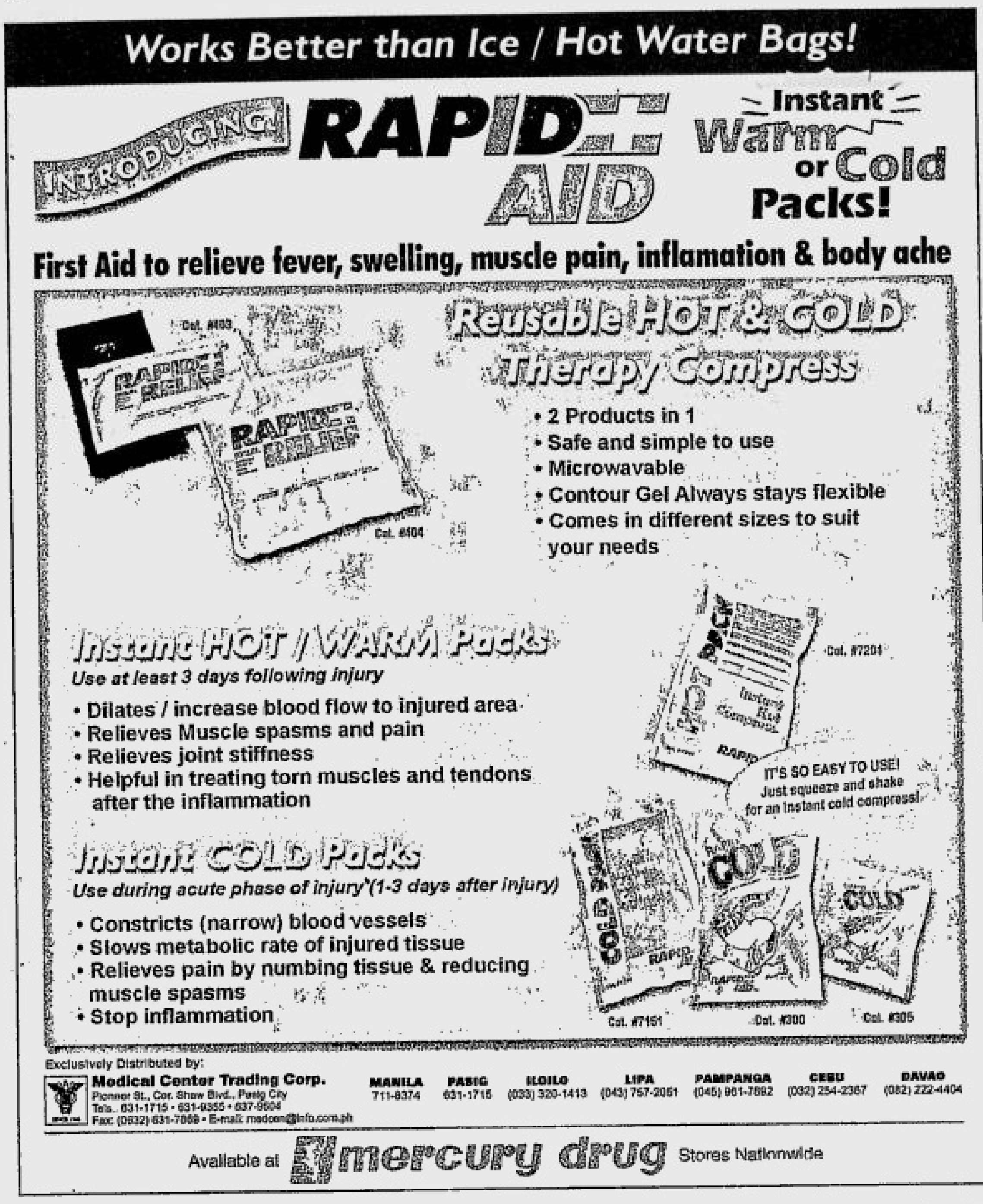
Smith's story about Charles isn't new: the Mail says it has known about it for a year, but previously didn't think it reliable enough to print.

What is new is the ban on publishing it—imposed on behalf of a royal servant—which has helped newspapers tempt readers with a tale that, they imply, is so shocking the courts won't let it be told.

It was that frenzy that the palace hoped to douse this week by denying the story without saying what it was denying. The Sunday Telegraph said Charles had hired a law firm to see whether he could sue Smith.

In the absence of new facts, Sunday papers poured on ever more brazen innuendo.

The News of the World—one of the most widely read of all—asked in a bold-faced headline on its front page: "IS CHARLES BISEXUAL?" It answered the question several paragraphs into its story in small type at the bottom: "emphatically NOT." *Reuters*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Jim Corringe, 99 (right), draws close to his bride Dinah, 85, during their wedding at the St. James Old Folks Home in Christchurch, New Zealand, Nov. 9. The couple, good friends for years and each with three previous deceased partners, plan a honeymoon. AP

WORLDBRIEFS

Iran to accept tougher nuke checks

VIENNA—Iran again pledged on Saturday to give the UN nuclear watchdog crucial letters making official its acceptance of tougher nuclear inspections and a suspension of its controversial uranium enrichment program. However, several diplomats said they were losing patience with Iran, which has yet to stop its enrichment activities, which Washington believes are at the heart of a secret atomic weapons program, three weeks after promising to do so. "Next week, we will get the letter by Iran for conclusion of the Additional Protocol, which is a positive step," International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Mohamed ElBaradei told reporters after a 90-minute meeting with the head of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Hassan Rohani. *Reuters*

Sex charge vs New Hampshire bishops

CONCORD, New Hampshire—A Roman Catholic reform group has petitioned the Vatican to remove New Hampshire Bishop John McCormack, calling him unfit to lead his diocese. The complaint, filed Oct. 28 by New Hampshire Catholics for Moral Leadership, says McCormack and Auxiliary Bishop Francis Christian lost their moral authority during the clergy sex abuse crisis and that church law requires the resignations of bishops unfit to serve, according to a draft copy of the documents sent to Rome and obtained by The Associated Press. "The credibility of the church's moral leadership is horribly eroded," the group wrote. "The effectiveness of these bishops as teachers of the faith has been unspeakably compromised by their hypocrisy and bad example." *AP*

Arafat keeps security control

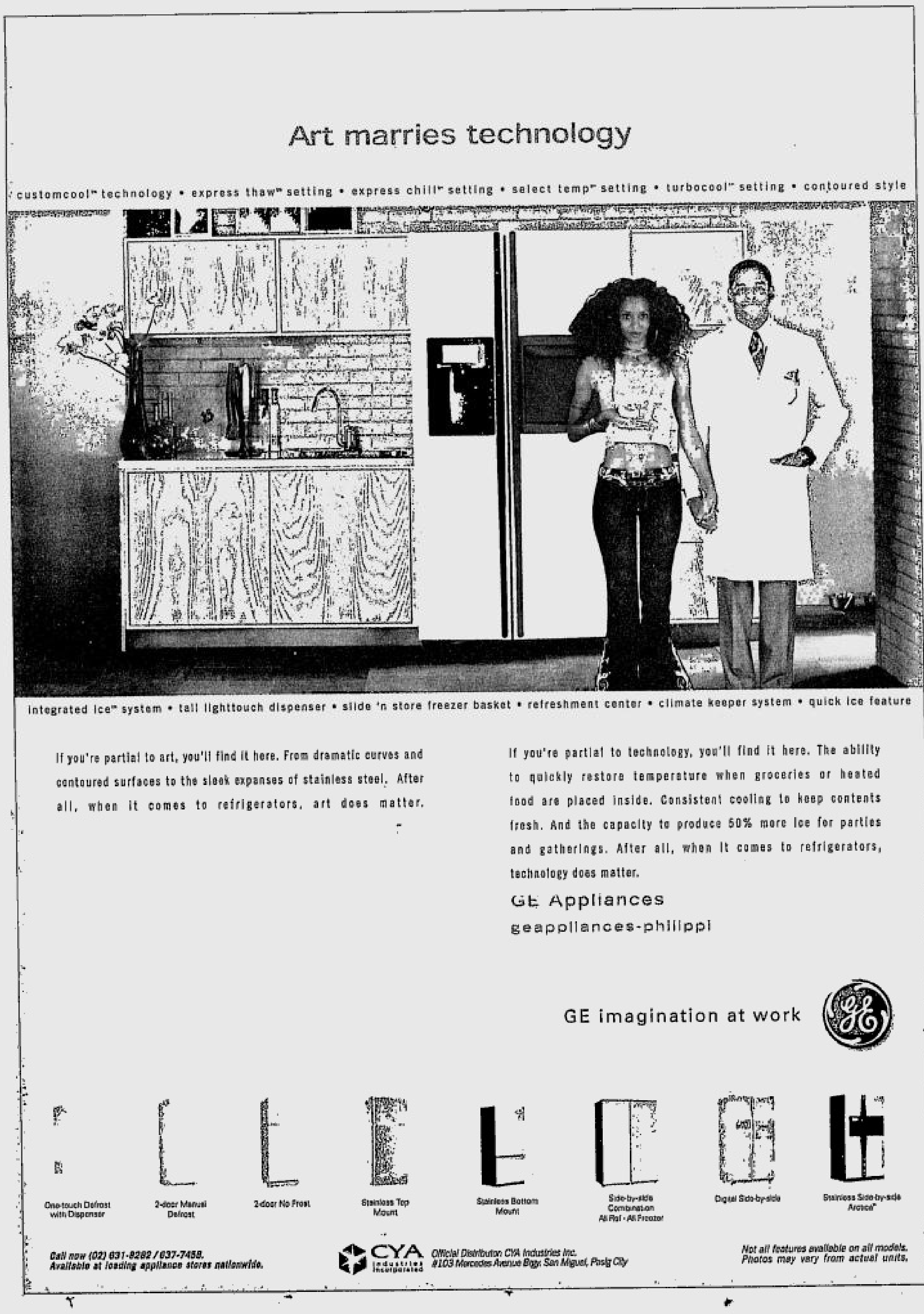
RAMALLAH, West Bank—Palestinians reached a compromise for a new government on Saturday under which security powers key to a US-backed peace plan will be in the hands of a council controlled by President Yasser Arafat. Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie agreed to the deal after being blocked in his efforts to transfer those powers to an interior minister of his choice, pro-reform Gen. Nasser Yousef. Arafat's dominant parliamentary faction Fatah on Friday rejected Yousef and instead nominated loyalist Hakam Balawi for the post. But Qurie said Balawi would not have security powers, which Arafat gave to the national council he heads. "The interior minister will most likely be Hakam Balawi, with responsibility for administrative affairs while security issues will be conducted by the national security council headed by Arafat," Qurie told reporters in Ramallah on Saturday. *Reuters*

Italian kids growing up fat

ROME—THIS country of the good-for-your-waistline Mediterranean diet has somehow produced a generation of chubby children—among Europe's fattest—who have doctors worried about the nation's health future. "In the 20 years of my practice, the number of overweight and obese children has increased enormously," said Andrea Vania, a pediatric nutritionist in Rome. He said he sees patients as young as 5 with weight problems. "We never used to see this." Experts say the blame for the extra kilos is twofold. Not only have Southern Europeans increasingly abandoned traditional diets rich in vegetables, fruits and grains for fatty ones, but also indulgent parents are letting children lead some of the most sedentary lifestyles in Western Europe. *AP*

Bone disorder among SARS survivors

HONG KONG—Hospital officials said Sunday that 49 SARS survivors are suffering from a degenerative bone disorder, a likely side-effect of the steroids used to treat them. Many Hong Kong SARS patients were treated with an antiviral drug and high dosages of steroids, and some experts had warned that the regimen may be harmful. The Hospital Authority said in a statement that 49 of the 1,755 people who had contracted SARS in the territory have avascular necrosis, which hampers blood flow to the bone, leading to fractures. The disease usually affects the hip joints. Researchers have also linked the steroid treatment to the occurrence of bone-weakening osteoporosis in some other survivors of severe acute respiratory syndrome, but the authority's statement made no mention of the disease. The authority has said that high steroid dosages had caused bone problems in about 100 former patients but has not specified the ailments. *AP*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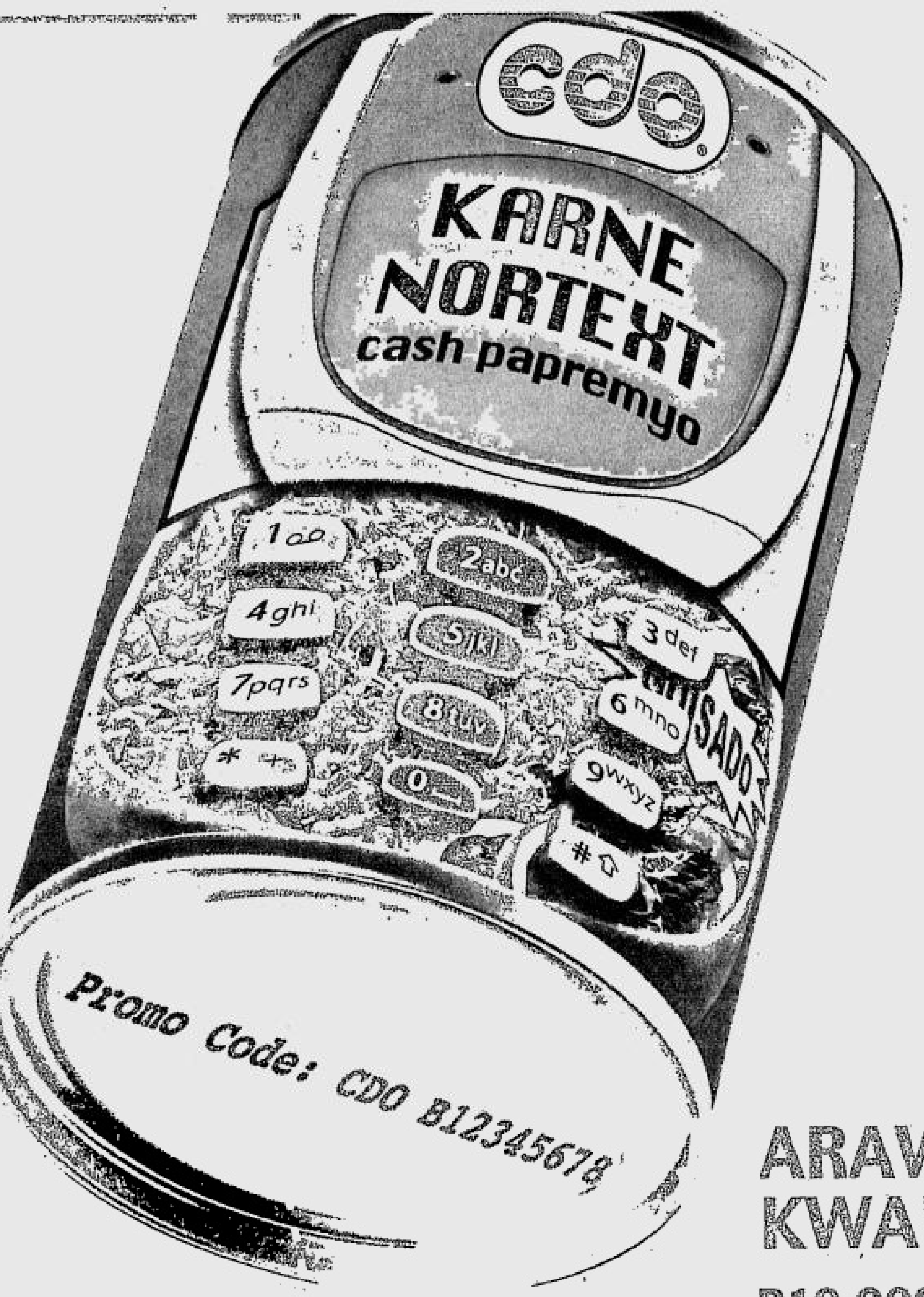

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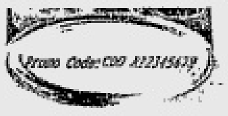

3. Para sumali, i-text ang promo code kasama ang pangalan, address, date of birth at gender, gamit ang format na ito:

CDO REG<code>/<COMPLETE NAME>/<ADDRESS>/<SEX(M or F)>/<BIRTHDATE(MMDDYY)

Sample:

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Shaw Blvd.,Pasig,
City/M/051476
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I-send ito sa sumusunod:

Smart/Talk 'N Text - 3996

Globe/Touch Mobile - 2966

4. Para sa mga susunod na entries, i-text lang ang promo code. Huwag kalimutang maglagay ng space sa pagitan ng salitang CDO at ibang characters.

I-send ito sa 3996 (Smart/Talk N' Text) o sa 2966 (Globe/Touch Mobile).

Sample:
CDO B12345678

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CDO B12345678
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Maaaring mag-send ng hanggang 2 promo codes per text

Sample:
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CDO B12345678,
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5. Sa bawat text na i-send, makakatanggap ang consumers ng confirmation message. Nakasaad dito kung ilang entries ang nakuha at ang draw date kung kailan kasali ang entries na sinend.

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6. Ang cost ng bawat successful message sent ay P2.50 para sa Smart and Globe subscribers. Tandaan na maaaring mag-send ng hanggang 2 promo codes sa bawat text.
7. Itago ang lata o ang bahagi ng lata na may promo code bilang proof of purchase. Kung sakaling nabunot ang pangalan, kailangan itong ipakita upang hindi ma-disqualify.
8. Ang mga pangalang nabunot ay tatawagan sa cellphone ng Verification Team para sa date, oras at lugar ng verification.
9. Ang mga sumusunod ay dapat maipakita sa validation process:
   - Valid ID with picture (driver's license, passport, employee ID, etc.) na may parehong pangalang ginamit sa pag-register sa promo.
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   - Ang lata o ang bahagi ng lata na may winning promo code bilang Proof of Purchase.
10. Makakatanggap ang winner ng confirmation letter matapos ang validation process. Kailangan itong i-present kasama ang isang valid ID sa pagkuha ng premyo. Ang premyo ay kailangang makuha sa loob ng 60 days pagkatanggap ng confirmation letter.

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Dumaguete	035 422-9711
General Santos	083 381-0204
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Laguna	049 562-1574
Legaspi	052 820-0608
Naga	054 361-2594
Nueva Ecija	044 600-0709
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CDO PREMYO (to inquire about the prizes at stake)

CDO DRAWS (to inquire on the schedule of draws)

CDO (to inquire about the promo in general)

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Force the issue

EDITORIAL

THE BIZARRE takeover of the Air Transportation Office control tower over the weekend is a symptom of an infectious disease: despair over the country's future. Many Filipinos share the sense that the country's political system is ailing and beyond cure. It is precisely for this reason that the Supreme Court, caught in the middle of a constitutional crisis, must declare the second impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. unconstitutional. A strongly worded, closely reasoned decision today will serve as proof that the body politic may be weak, but it has the resources to heal itself.

A ruling that judges the complaint fundamentally defective, or finds the process that led to it compromised by grave abuse of discretion, will be bitter medicine for the House—not only for the pro-impeachment congressmen led by the Brat Pack of the Nationalist People's Coalition, but also for Speaker Jose de Venecia, whose leadership in the House is at stake.

The high court may be tempted to sugarcoat the pill, or even to consider alternative treatment—three "friends of the court" argued last week that the Supreme Court had jurisdiction over the impeachment controversy but should not exercise it. The Supreme Court has no choice, however, but to do its duty, and administer the medicine.

As the violence at the airport reminds us, the time has come to force the issue.

Whether the brief takeover of the airport control tower was an isolated act, as police officials maintain, or an aborted conspiracy of coup plotters, as two sources in the military community claim, one thing already seems clear: It was a desperate act of desperate men. Ex-ATO chief Panfilo Villaruel told radio dzBB in the early hours of Saturday, after he and an aide had taken over the control tower, that he had been driven over the edge because of rampant graft and corruption in the government.

Like the pronouncements of the Magdalo leaders, Villaruel's reasons struck a chord in many. He may have specifically disowned mounting a coup—"There is no politics here. Tell them I won't do a Magdalo here"—but his armed takeover of the control tower seemed to be motivated by the same sense of despair that drove many junior military officers to join the mutiny in Oakwood.

Whether by circumstance or design, Villaruel did not communicate his demands or raise his issues with airport authorities or government officials. He did tell radio anchor Arnold Clavio in an off-the-air conversation: "Like you, I've been airing complaints against the government. But did anyone listen?" Clavio remembered him adding: "All we do is debate, all we do is argue."

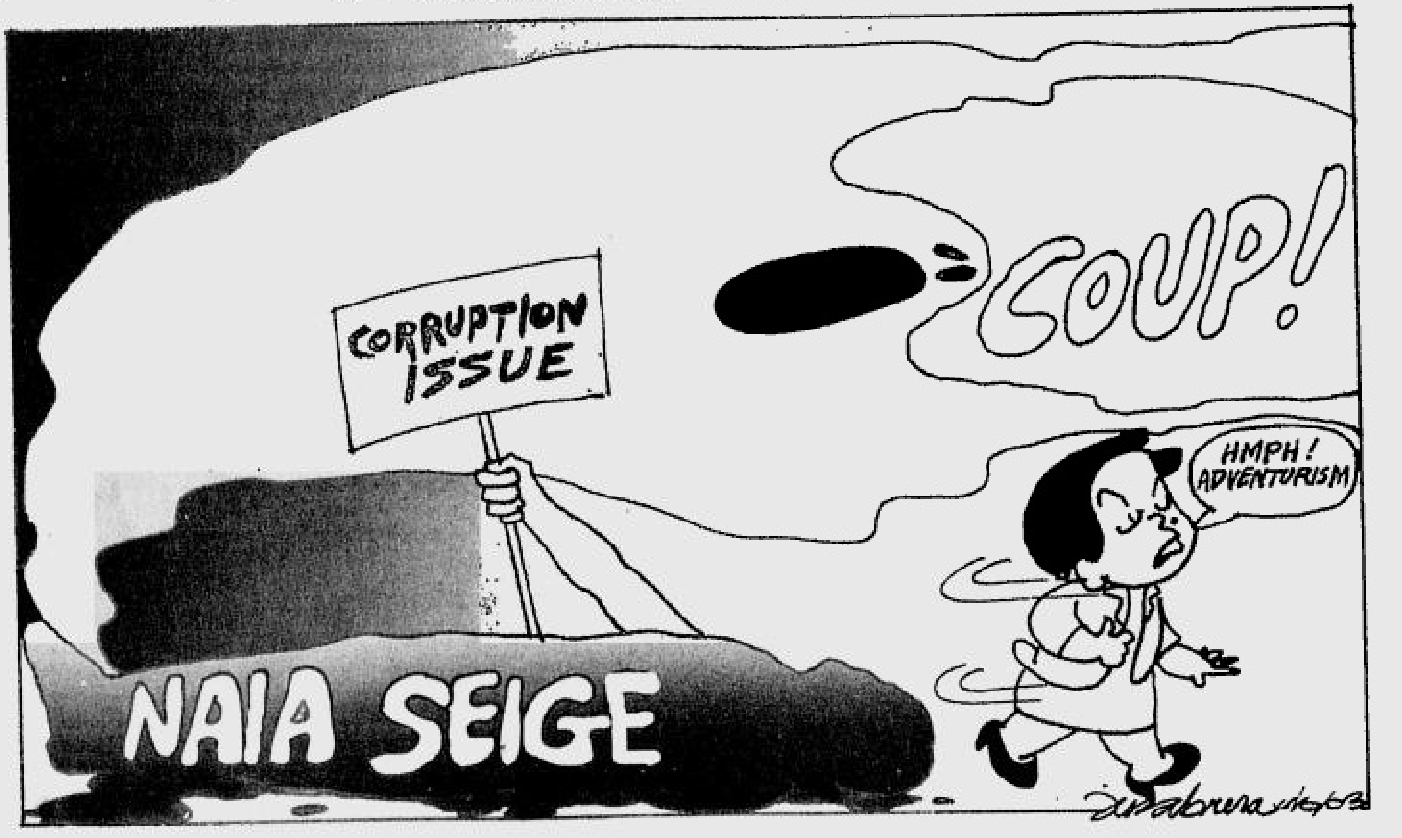
And in an interview with TV journalist Jessica Soho, he said, in Filipino: "I could see it's all hypocrisy, that there's no future for the Philippines."

Many Filipinos can identify with Villaruel's concerns, especially his sense that hypocritical politics is at the root of many of our problems. But we are certain that the majority of Filipinos object to his act of violence. We recall a recent Pulse Asia survey, which found that many Filipinos sympathized with the concerns of the Magdalo mutineers but did not support the mutiny itself. We expect the same results regarding public sentiment over Villaruel's act of desperation.

But how is his act intimately related to the impeachment crisis?

The second impeachment complaint was an abuse of power, partisan politics run wild. It cynically appropriated the language of morality and the concerns of court employees to mount an attack on the judiciary. In the guise of fighting corruption and defending the principle of checks and balances, the pro-impeachment congressmen ran roughshod over the Constitution, to meet the political needs of the most influential bloc in Congress.

A firm decision by the Supreme Court, checking this brazen abuse of power and discretion, will send a strong signal to the public. It will say: In our system, even the most powerful men can be stopped in their tracks. It will say: The system may be broken in places, but we can fix what needs to be fixed. It will say: Politics may have overtaken governance, but not in the court of last resort.



Cigarette firm dodging P4.6 B in taxes

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

BECAUSE of the rampant abuse by judges in the issuance of temporary restraining orders, the Supreme Court has ordered lower courts not to be too quick and too lenient in issuing TROs. That is why it is surprising when the Parañaque Regional Trial Court issued a TRO last week to restrain the Bureau of Internal Revenue from collecting higher taxes for two brands of cigarettes manufactured by the La Suerte Cigar and Cigarette Factory. It is surprising because the judge had earlier junked La Suerte's petition. The sudden and unexplained reversal is perplexing because the judge had earlier declared that her court, or any other court for that matter, "has no authority to grant an injunction to restrain the collection of any national internal revenue tax, fee or charge" as mandated by Section 218 of the National Internal Revenue Code. Why the turnabout?

Taxes are the lifeblood of the nation. Recognizing this, the framers of the Tax Code precisely prevented courts from interfering with the state's power to collect taxes. For taxation is one of the most important police powers of the state, without which it cannot survive.

La Suerte has been trying to avoid paying higher taxes on two new cigarette brands. The BIR had issued Revenue Regulation 22-2003 increasing taxes on sin products introduced after 1996. The new tax cannot be imposed on old cigarette brands because the Tax Code, which was revised in 1996, does not allow preexisting brands to be covered by new tax rates. RR 22-2003 was so designed to capture additional excise taxes from new brands to increase revenue.

But La Suerte used all the tricks in the book to avoid paying the higher taxes. First, it tried—unsuccessfully—to block a BIR price survey in March of all new cigarette brands. Later, it sued to prevent the BIR from collecting higher excise taxes which was supposed to take effect last Sept. 1.

Now its factory workers, claiming they would lose their jobs, are asking Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho to set side the new revenue regulation. But BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno told them that he could not defer the implementation of the law. He told them that they can either go to Congress and lobby for the passage of another bill realigning sin taxes or wait for a court decision on La Suerte's suit questioning the legality of RR 22-2003.

For the past four years, La Suerte has been paying an excise tax of only P1.12 per pack of Astro and Memphis cigarettes because the suggested retail price it declared with the BIR in 1999 was below P5. However, BIR surveys showed that Astro and Memphis were actually selling at an average retail price of P7.74, thus making it liable for P5.60 in excise taxes per pack.

Based on La Suerte's 2002 production volume of 358 million packs, the BIR expects to collect more than P1.6 billion in additional excise taxes from the said company alone if the tax is implemented prospectively. This is not counting the nearly P3 billion the government lost—and is trying to recover—from the said company from 1999 to 2002.

La Suerte should pay the higher tax "under protest" while questioning the law's validity. If proven right, it would be entitled to refunds. If proven wrong, it wouldn't have to pay such a big amount in back taxes.

* * *

Last Thursday, the television program "Jessica Soho Reports" on GMA 7 showed how Marikina tries to solve the problem of stray dogs. All the dogs in the municipality are registered and given anti-rabies shots for only P75 per. This is commendable.

The Marikina folk were shown to be enthusiastic over the registration. Even the poor have their "*askals*" registered. But maybe they were enthusiastic because of fear that their dogs would be taken away from them. Because the second part of the show showed Marikina dogcatchers catching dogs with nooses at the end of poles and throwing them into steel cages. A Marikina resident said there were instances when the dogcatchers even went after dogs inside homes. Owners are given five days to reclaim their dogs after paying a fine of P500, after which the animals are put to death. By gassing, they said. What they didn't say is that the "gassing" is by a vehicle's exhaust emissions.

The Philippine Animal Welfare Society also revealed that while paying a courtesy call on the Marikina dog pound, they saw a dog, its front legs tied behind its back, being loaded into a jeep. That dog was obviously not going to be gassed but was sold and would be bludgeoned to death, cooked and eaten by drunkards. This is against the law, the Animal Welfare Act. How many other unfortunate dogs had met the same fate?

I hope other cities and municipalities will not copy the Marikina model. The purpose of animal control is not to catch pets, collect hefty fines and put the innocent animals to death. It is to keep the pets safely inside their owners' yards. When they're outside the yards, the first step is tell the owners to keep them inside. Putting them in cages for ransom is only the last resort.

When they're not reclaimed by their stingy owners, the solution is not to kill them but to have them adopted by responsible families. It is only after all efforts at adoption fail that they should be put to death—humanely—not sold to be butchered and eaten by drunks. Humanely means by lethal injection, not by gassing. That was how Hitler massacred the Jews during World War II.

Youth

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

NOTHING has driven home to me the insanity of the attempt to unseat Hilario Davide more than the picture of the youthful representatives that are spearheading it that appeared on the INQUIRER front page last Friday. The group apparently went to the INQUIRER office to explain their side to the editors.

Sayang, I was just there the night before, listening to Pepe Miranda tell of many things, among them that I already have 1.2 million Filipinos rooting for me, and that if I can add 200,000 more to that, I can get as many votes as a party-list group if I ran. I got quite a bit of ribbing from the other INQUIRER people, some of whom not entirely jokingly suggested I do. Well, I have not quite reached that level of insanity, notwithstanding what column-writing has done to me. But I was almost tempted to—thankfully, it was temporary insanity—when I saw that picture of Wimpy and company in my favorite office last Friday. Had I been there, I too would have given them a piece of my mind.

The youth are my favorite people, and talking to them is about the only invitation I accept amid the flood that has been tumbling my way of late. The reason is that the youth are pretty much the only people you can talk to these days who aren't angling for something or other or thinking of some way to get ahead by screwing others. Youthful idealism, as I had occasion to tell an audience of (what else?) youth last year in the INQUIRER's reading campaign, is real. It takes youthfulness to want to change the world for no other reason than that it is the right thing to do. It takes youthfulness to dream of a better world for no other reason than it is the compelling thing to do.

Thankfully, youth has nothing to do with age. Or the aging process affects some more than others. It now prematurely claims even the young, as that picture in the INQUIRER last Friday drove home. To call the people that appeared there "youthful solons" is to do grave injustice to "youthful" and Solon. Solon was a Greek lawgiver who remained youthfully idealistic even in old age by giving his jaded and horrendously violent, community not just laws but a sense of law. And youthfulness normally expresses itself in a type of iconoclasm, or a desire to bring in the new through the ashes of the old, that intuitively hews to something good and noble, not something capricious and tyrannical.

What is perverse about what these kids have done is that they have given the Davide impeachment a spin of youth versus age, activism versus conservatism, idealism versus cynicism. Indeed, what is perverse about what they've done is that they have succeeded in making it so. Except that they've fallen on the side of age, conservatism and cynicism.

You can't stray very far from what is good and noble simply by asking the question the court asks witnesses in trials: "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?" The way the kids in Congress have answered this, the only thing you can say is that God truly help them.

As truth goes, well, it is coming to light amid the confusion. Ma. Lourdes Sereno, a UP law professor, is but the latest to show in an independent audit that Davide used the Judiciary Development Fund honestly and well. Indeed, that rather than being a source of iniquity, he has been a bedrock of rectitude, going further than his predecessors in reforming an institution that has earned a reputation for harboring "hoodlums in robes."

As the whole truth goes, can there be any more stunning display of blindness than being able to espy wrongdoing in the house of Davide and not in the houses of Danding Cojuangco, the patron of these, well, supply the noun, Jose de Venecia, the man who would be, well, supply the noun too, and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the, well, I've said enough about her. For crying out loud, have we forgotten about Mr. Jose Pidal, and how Mrs. Pidal helped to abduct a key witness against him? Have we gotten so jaded these things have become par for the course? The selective application of scrutiny is not virtuous, it is vicious. The truth is nothing if it is not the whole truth and nothing less.

As nothing but the truth goes, ah, that is the unkindest cut of all. The congressmen, youthful or not, may spout all the platitudes they like, but they are not going to convince anyone their zeal comes from conviction and principle. Have we forgotten they tried to impeach Davide once before early this year on yet another flimsy excuse, and failed? What's this, if at first you don't succeed, try and try again? That is not conviction, that is persecution. That is not principle, that is a witch hunt.

Contrast all that with the way Davide has gone about his business with the unbearable lightness of being, to use Milan Kundera's brilliant phrase. Contrast all that with the way Davide has discovered the simplicity and laughter of age the way wise men do who thereby see the world for the first time again. Though much persecuted by his enemies, he has refused to go down their level, calling on them only to dredge up their consciences and see the country instead of themselves. Though much maligned and insulted, he has refused to lash back, calling on sobriety and reason to triumph. Though having his good name tarnished, the only wealth honest people have, which is the only true wealth there is, he has refused to seek publicity or turn the attention into gain by entering politics, truly now the first refuge of scoundrels.

The spoiled brats in Congress have succeeded in turning this into a fight between youth and age, activism and conservatism, idealism and cynicism. But it's Davide on the side of youth, activism and idealism.

George Bernard Shaw was right: Youth is often wasted on the young.

Tough balancing act

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

FORMER AIR Transport Office chief Panfilo Villaruel, who was gunned down by government operatives after he and an accomplice seized the Naia 2's control tower early last Saturday, was a good friend of mine from many years back and I mourn his passing. As has been said by other friends of his, Villaruel was a fine man and an incorrigible idealist and dreamer. Before he was shot to death, he denounced to the media what he regarded as widespread corruption in government, and there's a tendency to portray his disgust over this social malaise as the rationale for his action. But it appears that personal motive was dominant—he felt frustrated that his inventions, such as a plane and helicopter he designed from indigenous sources, were discarded by government agencies.

* * *

There's now a move to blame his "murder" on the government agencies, but that may not be just and fair. The decision to gun him down must have been an agonizing one, but which involved split-second judgment to protect national security and a most vital facility. The lives of many hundreds of people in incoming planes were obviously at stake, and there was no telling at that point whether Villaruel and his aide, who were armed with grenades and guns, were part of a bigger terrorist attack on a critical facility. A hostage crisis always bears all the potentials for disaster and it's easy to do Monday morning quarterbacking, but at that one moment there's only one's deemed best judgment, and God help the one who pushes that command button.

In such a situation, communication is absolutely crucial. Apparently Villaruel had no hook-up to the authorities, only to mediaman Arnold Clavio and his station. I have heard some people who had followed every moment of the tragedy over radio, wonder if enough efforts were taken by the media to link up the tragic colonel to the operatives, led by Brig. General Angel Atutubo (ret.), instead of their seeming concentration on what was obviously a fantastic story in their hands.

* * *

As this column was being written the day before today's reopening of Congress, tough balancing acts continued on several fronts. The Supreme Court, working feverishly over the past days, began its day at 10 a.m. as the nation anticipated a decision. Yesterday former Senate President Jovito Salonga and UP College of Law Dean Raul Pangalangan co-authored an article in the INQUIRER that sought to balance the need for the Supreme Court to assume jurisdiction and not dismiss the petitions lodged before it; but at the same time the authors, cognizant that "the court does not work in a political vacuum," cautioned it "not to rush into judgment" as "constitutional avenues" are explored to block the impeachment complaint in the House or the Senate. The authors exhorted that the Supreme Court's power over the legitimacy of an issue "must be wielded wisely" and warned that "an ill-timed verdict" could be more harmful. In other words, a tough balancing act.

* * *

Yesterday, too, President Macapagal-Arroyo, Speaker Jose de Venecia and Chief Justice Hilario Davide were in close touch as a "covenant" was being finalized for their signatures at a Palace ceremony. The covenant, to be witnessed by legislators from various parties, sought to ensure "principled adherence to constitutional processes and strengthen the democratic institutions." Billed as a "just and proper solution of the crisis at hand," it sought to break the gridlock between the high court and the House by balancing their constitutionally guaranteed powers: the judiciary's power to interpret the Constitution and guard its fiscal autonomy, and the House's power over the purse and to initiate impeachment. It also recognized the House's need to exercise oversight function over the JDF through its right to ask the COA for pertinent documents.

From what I heard yesterday, the devil was in the details, as the Nationalist People's Coalition was insisting on merely "deferring" the impeachment complaint, whereas other legislators wanted it withdrawn outright and referred to the justice committee. Then too, the NPC wanted "full cooperation" from the Court which I read to mean the NPC wasn't happy that the House has to get documents from the COA and not directly from the court.

* * *

Last Saturday morning, just hours after the Villaruel tragedy, I dropped in at Speaker De Venecia's residence to get an update on the covenant. I heard him appealing to some colleagues on the phone to read the tragic episode as a sign of the people's desperation for unity and reconciliation, as he batted for the covenant. Early yesterday morning at the mammoth El Shaddai gathering at the Luneta. JDV was at it again, batting for reconciliation between the House and the Supreme Court, which was wildly applauded by the throngs—which only goes to show how starved the nation is for unity.

My own feeling is that the people want to see that the House give the JDF issue the committee hearing it justly deserves, and pull this nation back from the madness of impeachment even for the moment. Please, members of the House, send that complaint to the committee and fight for the truth there.

* * *

Senate President Frank Drilon appeared on the "Radyo Balintataw" program I co-hosted with Cecile Alvarez last night over dzRH, and he assured the entire nation that whatever the decision of the Supreme Court on the constitutionality of the impeachment complaint, the Senate would abide by it—even if personally he may differ with the Court's ruling. He called on the entire nation to uphold the high court's ruling. Drilon explained that should it rule the House complaint unconstitutional, the Senate would not accept it if transmitted by the House. That was very reassuring and I'm sure a lot of citizens went to sleep last night feeling a bit lighter in the heart.

Tinnex, pls pas d txt msg

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

TODAY, many of my fellow Mindanaoans will be taking to the streets, attending rallies and Masses, most probably still dazed and groggy from the prayer vigils last night. Today I am keeping the hope that our elected representatives, mine included, will still have some grain left of the *"Vox populi, vox Dei"* axiom they love to punctuate their campaign orations with every election time. Which makes us wonder what is or who is truly behind this costly national division, which Wimpy's JDF accounting just doesn't show.

In this virtual reality era of text messaging and e-mail, the signs are there that many Filipinos feel that axiom has not only been abused, it has been breached, and breached to the fullest. Read the text messages and e-mails, there is only one message: anger.

So today, if anger helps the spirit of democracy alive, here is the list of Mindanao congressmen and women who have made us angry. Remember their names. And remember them well come election time 2004.

Cecilia Jalosjos-Carreon—Zamboanga del Norte, Didagen Dilangalen—Maguindanao, Jesnar Falcon—Surigao del Sur, Gregorio Ipong—North Cotabato, Soraya Jaafar—Tawi-Tawi, Constantino Jaraula—Cagayan de Oro City, Celso Lobregat—Zamboanga City, Ruy Elias Lopez—Davao City, Arthur Pingoy—South Cotabato, Rodolfo Plaza—Agusan del Sur, Juan Miguel Zubiri—Bukidnon, Darlene Antonino-Custodio—South Cotabato with General Santos City, Augusto Baculio—Misamis Oriental, Alipio Badelles—Lanao del Norte, Roseller Barinaga—Zamboanga del Norte, Claude Bautista—Davao del Sur, Douglas Cagas—Davao del Sur, Benasing Macarambon—Lanao del Sur, Angelo Montilla—Sultan Kudarat, Jurdin Jesus Romualdo—Camiguin (when are you going to truly start representing your people, JJ?), Emmylou Taliño-Santos—North Cotabato.

The intensity of text messaging these past weeks is symptomatic of a downright lack of transparency. Where in the world can you find an impeachment motion where signatures were railroaded via house-to-house campaign, even before the House committee on justice could determine whether it is sufficient in substance (as was done in the Desierto and Tangcangco impeachment motions)?

Adding to the omen of the situation is a flip-flopping President who appears to fear losing the support of the Nationalist People's Coalition in 2004, and meanwhile, trivializes the peoples' anger by bringing in the chinovela idol what's-his-name to Malacañang much like Nero fiddling while Rome burned. GMA has just provided us the answer if we should vote for her in 2004. A weak, lame-duck president in the face of a confounding abuse of power by the legislative makes the Strong Republic nothing but hogwash.

That the impeachment endorsement campaign was carried out not only with much haste, but under cover of darkness as it were, makes us wonder if the text message on the alleged P5 million per signatory is true after all. Or this one: JOKER'S STORY IS TRUE. IF DAVIDE IS IMPEACHED, PUNO BECOMES CHIEF JUSTICE. PUNO ALWAYS VOTED FOR DANDING. SON IS AVP IN SAN MIGUEL.

Or this: ESTELITO MENDOZA WROTE THE DAVIDE ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT. SEVERAL YOUNG LAWYERS FROM PECABAR RESIGNED CUZ IT WAS PREPARED THERE.

Well, consider the facts from the PCGG. Danding has 11 criminal cases, about five potential cases, and nine cases in the Sandiganbayan; all of which invariably have been brought to the attention of the Supreme Court. Legal eagles have opined that a delay will cause a way out from litigation. One reading of the signs of the times interprets it to mean that there is a higher political process capable of short-circuiting the judiciary. Thanks to Wimpy, now we know that the coco levy is today a gargantuan P100 billion.

Unfathomable that politicians who use all kinds of media spin to shape a favorable image with voters now use every amount of obstinacy to ignore the signs of public outrage. Which further feeds the P5 million-per-signatory text rumors. Obviously, the people do not see them as legislators but as scheming wheeler-dealers. And the message is: people are not happy with your histrionics.

Puzzling is also the word for the double standard of those who denounced the Erap impeachment no matter if it was a popular move but who now say, as Jules Ledesma said, that they initiated the impeachment because they want explanations from the Chief Justice. So it takes an impeachment move to investigate what was erroneous accounting to begin with. Good grief, Assunta!

In my district, Constantino Jaraula was a well-respected politician who has probably just lost many votes. This text message came from a friend who is one of Jaraula's best golfing buddies: OUR VRY OWN TONGRESMAN JARAULA S ONE OF SIGNATORIES OF IMPEACHMENT VS DAVIDE. HE IS ALSO AMONG THOSE WHO EXONERATED TANGCANGCO DESPITE EVIDENCE. PLS PASS.

A college school mate, Allan Roy Sambaan, now a barangay councilman who has just turned a distraught Jaraula (ex)supporter had this to say: BY MONDAY, IM PERSONALLY PUTTING UP A STREAMER WHICH READS: REP. JARAULA PLEASE REPRESENT US WELL, OR DON'T REPRESENT US AT ALL! *Pastilan, Tinnex, wala gayud mahimuot ang imong mga botante sa imong gibuhat!*

My other favorite text messages are: TXT REP. MIGS ZUBIRI N THIS NUMBER—0917-8116447 TO EXPRES UR DISGUST. But the best of all is: I CANT IMAGINE DAVIDE BEING TRIED BY LOI, TESSIE, REVILLA, TITO, PING, JAWO, GREG. NGEE! GUD AM. PLS PASS!

Indeed, please pass!

* * *

Comments to monta@sni.ph

When the shoe is on the other foot

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

IMPEACHMENT is how Filipinos learn the dead language of Latin. For example, eight learned friends of the Court—the *amici curiae* ("ah-ME-key CURE-ree-yee") expressed strong contradictory opinions on Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.'s impeachment last week. So, the Supreme Court burns the midnight oil to find a Solomonic solution to the crisis, since it is being urged by private parties to be a mother in the dispute and claim jurisdiction over the infant impeachment. Still, the framers did not conceive of the Constitution as a whole, but innovated on previous texts and traditions. Disastrously, as it turns out.

Today, the die may be cast in Articles of Impeachment, though the art of the *areglo* or the science of quorum can still prolong the agony. Things may be delayed if the Supreme Court has not yet found the words that will stand the scrutiny of history's vast audience. But Congress may initiate impeachment proceedings anyway against Davide, for the first time, if 76 signatures appear on a Resolution for Impeachment. Meanwhile, I'm dismayed that Senate President Frank Drilon wants to shirk the duties of the real Solomon in "all cases of impeachment."

Whatever happens later, there is a growing realization on all sides that the 1987 Philippine Constitution contains a dangerous ideological mutation, that incredible one-third rule of impeachment by an absolute minority of the Lower House. Yet, few who are bleating today about "unseemly haste," were not so fussy when it was used on Erap:

"Art XI Sec 3 (3): A vote of at least one-third of all the Members of the House shall be necessary either to affirm a favorable resolution with the Articles of Impeachment of the Committee, or override its contrary resolution. The vote of each Member shall be recorded. (4) In case the verified complaint or resolution of impeachment is filed by at least one-third of all the Members of the House, the same shall constitute the Articles of Impeachment, and trial by the Senate shall forthwith proceed."

With alacrity! But who invented the one-third rule and why did they think it improved on two-thirds or one-half plus one? Sen. Rene Saguisag points to Pages 375-76 Vol II, 1986 ConCom Record:

MR. DAVIDE: *"... I notice that the proposal now requires a majority vote of all the members of the House to initiate impeachment, while the present constitutional provision requires only a vote of one-fifth of the Members. If we are going to relax impeachment, we should retain the one-fifth requirement to initiate impeachment and, perhaps, even reduce the requirement for conviction."*

Read Davide's lips. The members must vote to initiate impeachment. Davide binds initiation of impeachment to the act and arithmetic of voting for impeachment. He wanted to keep it at one-fifth to initiate impeachment, and even reduce the two-thirds vote in the Senate for conviction. Justice Davide does not remember Commissioner Davide's words? Surely, friends Regalado Maambong, Florenz Regalado and Joaquin Bernas do, since they were present at those deliberations.

But Davide stunningly refutes the disingenuous colloquialists in the debate over "initiate"—like UP Dean Raul Pangalangan and Sen. Jovito Salonga, who explicably revised and misquoted the Constitution on the front page of yesterday's Sunday INQUIRER because its plain text contradicts their prejudice. Davide lets the framers of the 1973 Constitution explain it to the resolutely dense:

"... Upon the filing of a verified complaint, the Batasang Pambansa may initiate impeachment by a vote of at least one-fifth of all its Members...."

Impeachment proceedings cannot be initiated by the filing of a verified complaint. Else, a deliberately flawed complaint could inoculate against it—such as when Rep. Butch Pichay cynically filed such a complaint for impeachment against Gloria in 2001. Now, if I were Wimpy Fuentebella or Gilbert Teodoro, I might indulge Conrado de Quiros and try to impeach Gloria, or some worthy target like the Comelec, with multiple, simultaneous complaints for impeachment, just to prove this point about initiation. The preliminary investigations are not the initiation of impeachment proceedings under the Constitution, says Davide himself.

So it is intellectually dishonest to robotically repeat the falsehood, over and over again, like the bricks of a stonewall being laid, that an unconstitutional "second impeachment" was initiated. It simply was not, though there may be other faults. But frustrating the public's need to know the truth using a "second impeachment" to dodge it, may be the "second envelope" that launches "Edsa Next."

There are funny ironies in the double standards of civil society's guardian angels and professional saints. Now that the shoe is on the other foot a golden opportunity exists to regenerate faith in the impartiality of the judiciary—if framers like Davide and his supporters nobly stood by their creation, even if it hurts.

Democracy is strong when it can survive the worst of its people's choices in leaders, without having to resort to coups d'etat like Edsa II or Oakwood, even if they are bloodless (a claim which still remains to be proven in the 2004 elections, by the way). Ironically, it takes even greater strength, wisdom and moral courage to survive the best of a people's choices, when the best look down on the people and do not always respect their democratic choices or play by their own rules. *(Visit my website at http://deanjorgebocobo.blogspot.com/)*

Political double-talk

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

SO who's telling the truth? Rep. William Fuentebella or the INQUIRER?

The "truth" is about the alleged plan of congressmen identified with the Nationalist People's Coalition who signed the impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. to oust Speaker Jose de Venecia from his post if he fails to transmit the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate.

That plan was the banner story ("NPC threatens Joe de V") of the newspaper's Nov. 4 issue. As reported by the INQUIRER's Southern Luzon correspondent, Juan Escandor Jr., the information came from Fuentebella, the prime mover of the scheme to unseat Davide from the Supreme Court.

The following day, Fuentebella clarified that the ouster of De Venecia was only one of the options that their group was considering if the impeachment case fails. Rep. Francis Escudero, another NPC member, said, quoting Fuentebella, that the latter did not make the threat.

Not wanting to be left out of the denial game, Rep. Jacinto Paras described the newspaper report as inaccurate. He patronizingly described Fuentebella as "a good boy" who would not advocate something like that.

The INQUIRER correspondent stood by his report. In his explanation that came out in the Nov. 5 issue, he said he talked to Fuentebella by cell phone, courtesy of the latter's father, former Speaker Noli Fuentebella. When the young Fuentebella was asked what his group would do if the Lakas party succeeds in making its members withdraw their signature from the complaint, he replied: "We will remove the Speaker."

Reaction

I was not surprised that the conflicting accounts drew varied comments from the readers. A reader from Caloocan City commented that the INQUIRER showed its bias for Davide when "it manufactured the story on the threat of the NPC to oust the Speaker if the impeachment complaint fails." The same reader earlier criticized the newspaper for calling the young congressmen behind the impeachment move as the "brat pack."

Another reader thanked the newspaper for the story because it gave the people "an insight into the true character of Fuentebella, Teodoro and Escudero," the other proponents of the impeachment complaint. He said they will do anything, including destroy the country, to achieve their political ambitions.

It was apparent from the letters and e-mail I received that the impeachment case against Davide has attracted public attention in a scale that is almost similar to that of President Joseph Estrada's impeachment in 2000. Another afternoon TV and radio drama may be in the offing if Davide's impeachment trial pushes through.

Going back to the news report in question, I called up the INQUIRER correspondent to get my own feel of his side of the story. Not that I doubted his earlier explanation, but nothing beats getting it straight from the horse's mouth, so to speak. Sometimes, constraints of space and confidentiality prevent reporters and editors from telling everything when their stories are denied by news sources.

My hunch was right. I learned that upon hearing Fuentebella's statement about ousting De Venecia, the correspondent made sure he heard him right by asking, "Are you sure you will oust the Speaker?" Fuentebella gave an emphatic "Yes."

Accurate

In the haste to comply with the instructions of the newspaper's central desk to give his side on the denial story, the correspondent inadvertently omitted this item in his explanation of the circumstances behind his report on Fuentebella's statement.

I was amused to find out that Fuentebella, his father or any of his PR people did not call the correspondent at all to deny the statement attributed to him in the news. Instead, the denial was made on his behalf by people who were not around or within hearing distance when Fuentebella made his veiled threat to De Venecia.

When I checked my records to see if the correspondent has been the subject of complaints for inaccuracy in the past, I found nothing. His credibility remains unimpaired.

All told, I am convinced the news in question was accurate. It was not made up or taken from thin air. I surmise Fuentebella made the threatening statement out of youthful impetuosity or braggadocio.

When he later realized the adverse consequences of his outburst, he tried to downplay it by saying it was only one of the options open to their group if De Venecia foils their impeachment complaint. Interestingly, while Fuentebella did not deny his statement, two of his colleagues denied it. This is akin to denial by proxy.

Schemes

This brings me to the habit of most, if not all, politicians of blaming the media if the statements they have earlier given to reporters draw unfavorable reaction from the public or the person to whom it is directed. Publicity-hungry politicians are prone to opening their mouths ahead of their brains on controversial issues. Or floating "trial balloons" on how certain problems should be attended to if given the chance to handle them.

The more dramatic the statements or suggestions, the better. They increase their chances of becoming banner stories or the subject of discussion by print and broadcast commentators. Catchy sound bites can bring, free of charge, media coverage worth millions of pesos.

But if those statements or suggestions turn out later to be wrong, unworkable or downright silly, their authors turn around and do any of the following: deny having said them, claim they were misquoted, accuse the reporter of making up stories or threaten to sue for libel if the newspaper does not apologize for the alleged error.

When this happens, the first thing the newspaper does is ask the reporter concerned to explain his side and, if there is a tape recording of the interview, review it to make sure the quotes are accurate. And as was done in Fuentebella's case, the reporter's account of the events is published along with the denial story. It is up to the reader to decide who is telling the truth and who had a sudden attack of selective amnesia.

When it comes to double-talk, our politicians are in a class of their own.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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Basic sanitation and solving the country's problems

WHENEVER I take a walk early in the morning either in downtown Baltimore or in the suburbs, I invariably see people walking their dogs. But it is not the image of the person and his dog that is etched in my mind, but that of the dog owner stooping down, holding a plastic bag and picking up his dog's turd. In a world where people do this, one is never in danger of getting something smelly on the sole of his shoes. The thing is disposed of properly in a trash bin—not just thrown into the bushes. Clean sidewalks and streets and clean parks are marks of a high level of civilization.

When I was in the grades back in the Philippines, there were some mailboxes in strategic places like street corners. Then, before I reached high school the mailboxes disappeared. I asked a postman why they disappeared and he said that some vandals sometimes put horse manure into them, or the boxes were forced open by thieves, or postmen neglected to regularly collect the mail dropped there. And so there was no use putting up mailboxes in strategic places for the convenience of the public, particularly in residential areas far from the post office.

Two years ago, when I last visited the Philippines, I became sharply aware of how appallingly filthy many places were and how inconsiderate people were in the careless disposal of their trash. What I did not mind and had gotten used to before I left was now unbearable to me.

The talk about graft and corruption and other scandals involving public officials and entertainment people could be heard everywhere. I used to participate in conversations with friends about these. But now I feel bad just listening to such things.

Maybe people who cannot observe basic sanitation because of a dire lack of a social conscience cannot begin to solve their national problems.

—GRACIANUS REYES,
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grr105@email.com

Legislators ignore veterans' survey

JUST recently, the Philippine Veterans Legion conducted a survey among our legislators in both chambers, on how they propose to implement the provisions of RA 7896, which mandates the payment to veterans over 70 years, a disability pension of P1,700 a month. The lawmakers passed this in 1994, and since then numerous studies have been made by various committees, both in the executive and legislative departments, seeking the source of funds to pay the pensions. The President herself admits that the accumulated back pensions since 1994 has now ballooned to P14.1 billion.

The survey letter to 22 senators and 26 representatives (Committee on Veterans Affairs) were sent on Sept. 29, 2003. The reply: Only one representative, Cynthia A. Villar, favored us with her reply which, among others suggested, "You write to the President for her to facilitate the release of the appropriation through the Department of Budget and Management."

The entire Senate had nothing to say. The 25 congressmen, likewise chose to ignore the veterans' concern.

Where can you find a legislative body, elected by the people who ignores its constituents? Only in the Philippines, that's where.

—FRANCISCO G. CEDULA,
national commander,
Philippine Veterans Legion,
PVAO Compound, Antonio J. Villegas St., Ermita, Manila

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Kinder GMA in the wings

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's announcement that she would join the presidential race in 2004 despite her earlier message of abandoning her political plans, reinforces the premise that there is no such thing as *palabra de honor* in Philippine politics. Word of honor is something innate to Philippine culture—that is why this issue was strongly raised by critics in trying to stir the President's conscience. Truth is, GMA herself is no different from her holier-than-thou critics in the Senate and the House who would make many promises but redeem much less later on. So what else is new? GMA and her bunch of critics dwell in one carnival that is truly Pinoy in style.

Surely, the President's decision to join the race in 2004 will yield something beneficial for ordinary Pinoys sometime before the actual exercise takes place in May. Who knows, tomorrow or the next day, she may direct the National Power Corp. to slash its wholesale power rates and the public can enjoy a reduction in our monthly bills? Expect a kinder GMA as election draws near!

—ANGEL ALEGRE,
energy_eco@edsamail.com.ph

Qualities needed in legislators

THE VARIOUS lawyers' groups of the Ateneo, the Human Rights Center, the School of Government and the Rule of Law Center filed a prohibition case before the Supreme Court on Oct. 27 in connection with the second impeachment case filed against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., which is in flagrant violation of our Constitution.

I attended law school at the Ateneo and we were taught to respect the Bar and the Bench and to adhere to the rule of law. I feel you are well aware of the kind of legislators we have right now that has placed our country's interests in jeopardy due to their ignorance and greed. At this critical time when our legislators threaten the institution and the very symbol of justice in our country, I can only hope that the media can communicate to our people this subversion of justice and democracy.

We need to inform our people that legislators and the people in the executive branch may compromise our institution of justice with impunity just to stay in power.

The judicial branch of government must always be insulated from political influence. If it is threatened, it could result in the breakdown of the fabric of our democracy. It is tragic that people in high places of government do not understand the law and how the rule of law must prevail at all times for a democracy to thrive.

It is high time our people realize that we must install leaders who have the public interest at heart. No amount of knowledge will suffice if our leaders do not hold sacred the public interest and the public good. We are in a state of affairs where the leaders in government only think of their own selfish interests. We, the people, must do something now.

—WINNIE JIMENEZ,
4D Torre de Salcedo, Salcedo St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City

Thanks from Sister Christine's sisters

ON BEHALF of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, I would like to thank the INQUIRER for featuring on its front page the article of Ceres P. Doyo on Sr. Christine Tan. We are thankful not only because Sister Christine was one of our sisters but also because the item was a proclamation of the good news that we wish can be included more often in the dailies.

Let this be an opportunity for us to let you know of our high regard for the INQUIRER. It is a major source of our daily news that keeps us in touch with people and events. The paper has grown by leaps and bounds, in every aspect, from its early beginnings. Congratulations.

—SR. M. CARMELITA CRUZ,
provincial coordinator,
Philippine Province
of the Good Shepherd,
1043 Aurora Blvd., Quezon City

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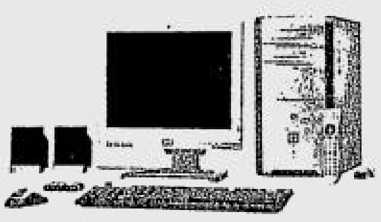

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3297, series of 2003.

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Groups rally for, against impeachment

A MILITANT group, members of the clergy and court employees are holding various forms of mass action in several parts of the country today when Congress resumes session to discuss the fate of the impeachment complaint against Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

Teddy Casiño, secretary general of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), said his group will hold a rally in front of Batasang Pambansa to denounce what it called the "GMA-Danding-engineered impeachment complaint."

The looming confrontation between the Supreme Court and Congress is the "byproduct of a well-orchestrated and sinister political maneuver" by President Macapagal-Arroyo and business tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco, he said in a statement.

"It aims to put the SC under their tight control in the light of pending critical decisions of the high court on the coco levy and other cases affecting Cojuangco's gargantuan economic interests," Casino said in an e-mailed statement in response to a query.

He warned of more anti-people outcomes as the "GMA-Danding alliance matures into a marriage of convenience" for the 2004 elections.

Regional trial court employees in Quezon province said they would "continue to work but in protest."

Rudy Advincula, vice president of the Quezon Court Employees Association, said they would hold office wearing red-arm ribbons starting today.

"We're not against nor pro impeachment. What we're only after is an honest accounting of the Judiciary Development Fund (JDF)," Advincula told the INQUIRER. "They should give every centavo portion of the JDF that is due to all court employees."

Prayers

The clergy in two dioceses on Negros Island called on the faithful to pray for the enlightenment of the congressmen who signed the impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

"We are not pro or anti-Davide. We believe in the sacredness of the Constitution as the fundamental law of the land and that it must be upheld at all times," the Bacolod diocese clergy said in a statement signed by Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra.

The clergy under the Dumaguete diocese called on the congressmen to heed the covenant proposed by President Macapagal-Arroyo to transcend the current impasse crippling the country today.

"Let us not be dictated by the interests of a few who are concerned solely with their investments and businesses," the Diocese of Dumaguete clergymen said in the statement, as they stressed that the pro-impeachment congressmen did not even consult their constituents on their decision.

The Bacolod clergymen found the impeachment process "highly devious because it subverts our democracy and the will of the people enshrined in the Constitution."

They warned that the denial of due process by the same people who vowed to uphold the fundamental law of the land, would usher in chaos and open our society to the rule of the oligarchs.

The clergymen also affirmed the independence of the three-branches of government, as they believed in the supremacy of the judiciary as a mandated body in interpreting the Constitution.

"The Church has to teach and guide her children on the ways of truth and justice," the clergymen said, stressing that the Church could not remain silent in "the midst of this moral turpitude."

The Citizens of Judicial Independence (CJI) will hold a Mass at 6:30 p.m. at the Redemptorist Church in Cebu.

Ricky Poca, CJI convenor, said they will pray for the enlightenment of the members of the Supreme Court, which will rule for the constitutionality of the second impeachment complaint.

They will also to pray for the enlightenment of the pro-impeachment congressmen so they would withdraw their signatures from the impeachment complaint and of all the congressmen so they would not transmit the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate.

Poca said they would also pray for peace and stability in the country.

The CJI had sent to Manila the copies of the manifesto of support for Davide, which was signed by 22,702 persons.

In San Fernando City, a multi-sectoral forum held to launch Pampanga Rep. Oscar Rodriguez's mayoral bid on Saturday turned into an anti-impeachment gathering.

Rodriguez, the only legislator in the province who did not sign the impeachment complaint, used the occasion to rally support for Davide Jr.

Rodriguez said rallies and other activities supporting Davide will be held in local courts today.

The Social Action Center of Pampanga had put up streamers condemning Pampanga Reps. Juan Pablo Bondoc, Zenaida Cruz-Ducut and Francis Nepomuceno for signing the complaint.

The three, who are all members of the Nationalist People's Coalition, had said in separate interviews that their endorsement of the complaint was a clamor for transparency and accountability.

In Naga City, the first group of court employees who dared to question Davide Jr. about his alleged mismanagement of the JDF will push through with their mass leave today despite warnings from the Chief Justice himself and the director of the Civil Service Commission of the province.

"We are defying the warning of the Chief Justice," Edgar Surtida II, spokesperson of the Camarines Sur Chapter of the Association of Court Employees of the Philippines, said in a telephone interview yesterday.

Surtida said Davide summoned their group's representative in Manila for a meeting Saturday "to warn us against pushing through with the protest."

"Even before our representative met with the Chief Justice, our group had already agreed not to make any concessions with him. We have already expressed our position that we are not after (his) impeachment—that's only a side issue—but an equal opportunity. We made it clear that our group only wants three things: truth, transparency and rule of law," he said.

He said around 1,000 court employees of the regional trial courts and city courts in Naga and Iriga and other parts of the province will join the protest.

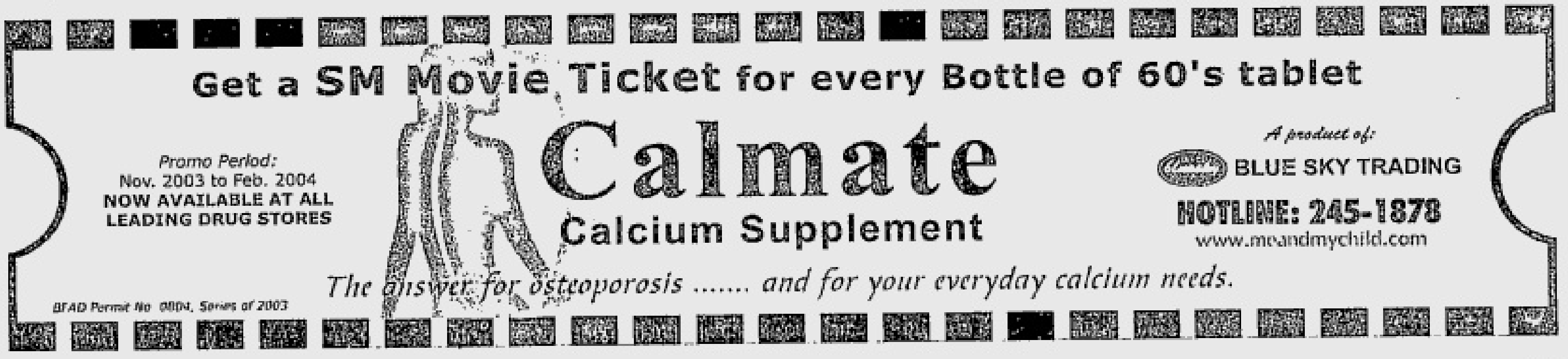
Surtida said court employees in Daet and Legazpi City would have a "sit down protest." *Delfin T. Mallari and Alan Pelayo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau; Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; With report from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Court workers warned

COURT employees who would go on mass leave and other forms of mass action, today with the intent of stopping or disrupting court operations will be punished.

Court Administrator Presbitero Khan, made this warning yesterday to the Alliance of Court Employees Associations of the Philippines, which is backing the impeachment of Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide.

Aceap said its members in Naga, Bacolod, Iloilo and Ilocos would hold mass leaves and protest actions beginning today. *Jerome Aning*



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Pampanga mayor suspended for 'missing' rice stocks

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon Victor Fernandez has suspended Mayor Normita Evangelista of Candaba, Pampanga, for failing to distribute 500 cavans of rice intended for flood victims in the town in July last year.

Fernandez approved Evangelista's 30-day suspension in a six-page decision released to reporters on Friday.

The decision found the mayor "guilty of conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service." She was suspended in connection with the administrative aspect of a graft complaint filed by Candaba Vice Mayor Daniel Gallardo.

The evidence included Evangelista's letter requesting the purchase of 1,000 cavans of rice from the National Food Authority, a receipt for the purchase of 500 cavans by private trader Wilfredo Magat, an affidavit by a driver and a report from NFA personnel.

The documents confirmed the delivery of 200 cavans to a private warehouse in Bocaue, Bulacan, on Aug. 7, 2002.

The municipal social welfare official also certified that no relief operations were made after July 24.

"(Not) one cavan was ever utilized for any relief operation ... and at least 200 cavans were actually delivered to Bocaue, Bulacan," the decision said.

Despite this, the decision noted that Evangelista again asked the NFA to allow Magat to buy the remaining 500 cavans.

Evangelista claimed there was a whitewash in her case. She said the trader, although issued a subpoena, was not allowed to speak during the hearings.

She also said no public funds were spent for the rice purchase. "The traders used their own money," Evangelista said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Masked men raid Cotabato houses

COTABATO CITY—Masked and uniformed men yesterday morning searched two houses here for what one of the raiders described to village officials as a "highly destructive powder substance."

Referring to something like security experts describe as anthrax, barangay chair Rodolfo Juliano Maglalang of Rosary Heights IV said the raiders told him they were "looking for that dangerous substance," but this was not listed in the inventory of seized items he signed.

The affected residents of Rosary Heights IV, who said they just went to sleep from the early morning Ramadan meal when the raid took place at about 5:30 a.m., begged reporters to "tell the truth."

They said they feared that facts could be twisted against them when reports reach higher authorities.

Last month, authorities also raided a house nearby from which were seized blinking lead lights, a few meters of wire and an electronic manual.

Another house was raided in Ma'ahad Kutawato in Lugay-Lugay District yesterday morning.

Hadji Ahmad Ali, the owner of the raided house in Rosary Heights IV, signed a document with Maglalang and the leader of the raiding team, showing that the confiscated items consisted of a copy of the Maradeka newsmagazine of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, an electrical diagram drawn on a leaf of a lined yellow pad, a soldering rod, a surgical glove and a cardboard marked "Morolandia."

Hadja Zohara, Ali's 71-year old mother, said the raiders told them to lie facedown at 5:30 a.m. She said they were also told that whoever got nervous "should drink water," which she rebuffed because all of them were already fasting by then.

Ali said the soldering rod and electrical diagram (described as "yellow pad document-electrical design" in the "Receipt of Properties Seized") belonged to his nephew, a student of a vocational course on driving and mechanical troubleshooting.

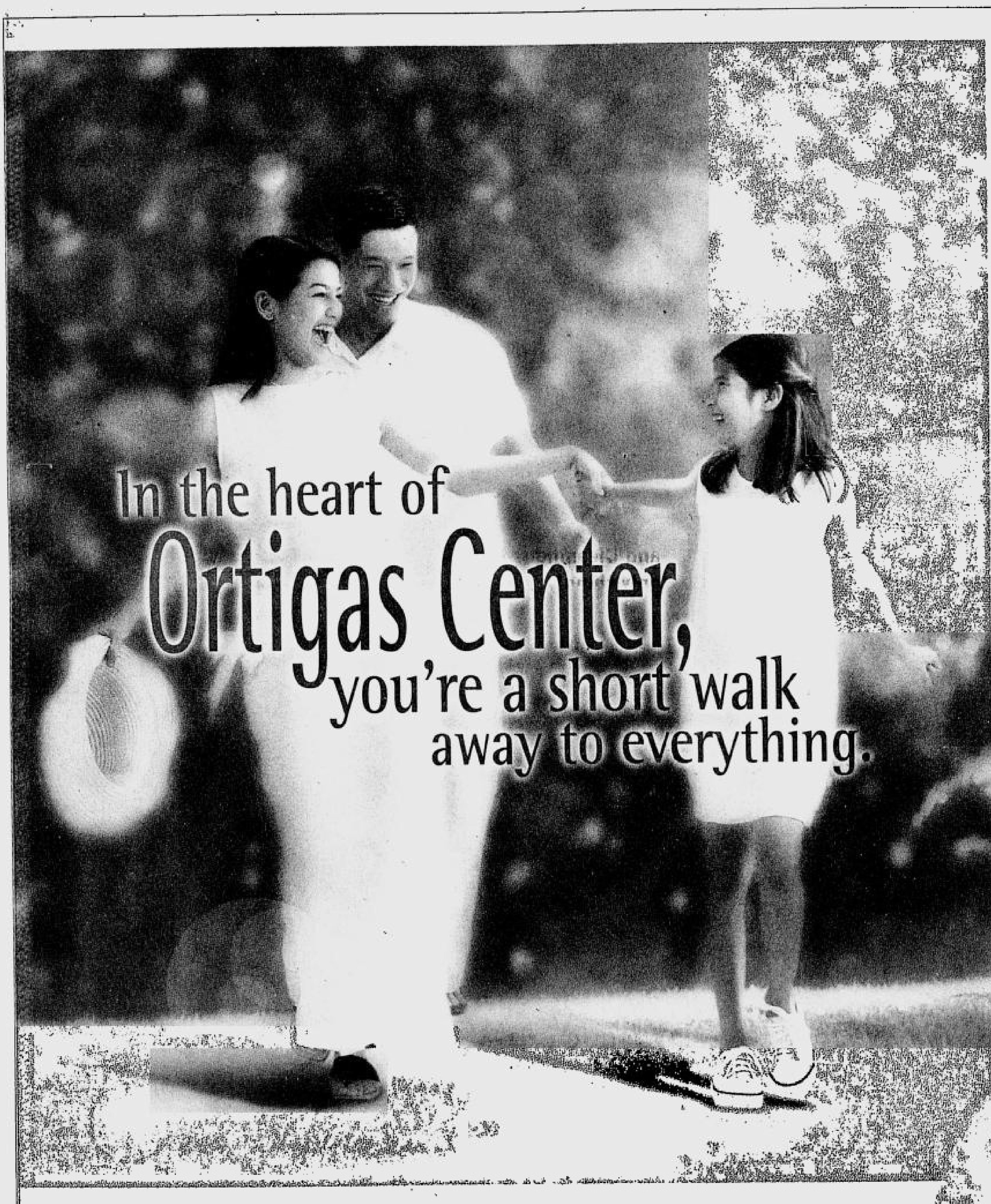
The surgical glove, he said, belonged to another student relative, who is taking up nursing at a nearby De Ocampo Medical Institute.

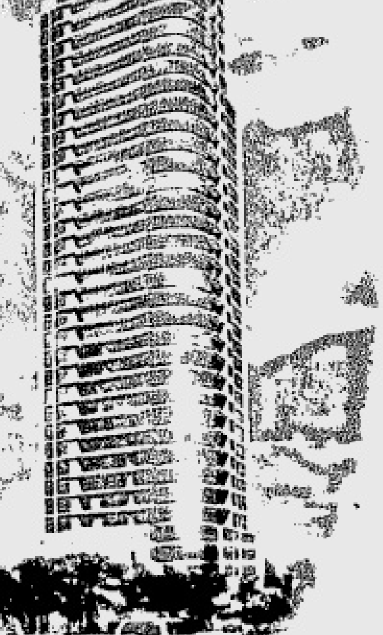
He said the raiders were composed of some 20 fatigue-uniformed men without name cloths with many of them masked either with cloth or bonnet. The "Receipt of Property Seized," a copy of which furnished the INQUIRER, bore the heading of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) and a Police Officer Mark Young (without signature) of Region 12 Police Office written over a space provided for "Name of searching officer." *Nash B. Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT is exactly 546 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.





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Car bombers attack foreigners' villas in Riyadh

From page A1

A Western diplomat said Interior Minister Prince Nayef and other Saudi royals had private homes near the compound on the western outskirts of Riyadh. "It was about half a mile from one of the houses of Prince Nayef," the diplomat told Reuters.

The diplomat said the compound might have been chosen as a "soft target" after a recent tough crackdown by security forces. Security measures at compounds housing non-Westerners tended to be more relaxed.

A Reuters correspondent at the scene said: "I saw two bodies, one being carried away and another lying on the grass of the compound. Whole walls of the 200 villas were blown out and glass covered the compound."

The explosion gouged a crater five meters wide and two meters deep. Children's toys were strewn among the rubble and sofas, baths and beds spilled out onto a road dividing two rows of collapsed villas.

Soldiers, police, medics and firefighters rushed to try to find survivors under the debris, using detectors and search lights. Helicopters flew overhead and police sirens wailed.

The acrid smell of explosives filled the air and smoke was rising from the rubble hours after the attack.

The powerful explosion shook windows in central Riyadh several kilometers away.

"I can see one of the (bombers') cars which is completely destroyed and I can see human remains," said a Saudi television reporter. "We don't know how many terrorists were in the cars."

The attack, staged in the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, occurred six months after triple suicide bombings at Riyadh housing compounds on May 12 killed 35 people, including nine Americans.

Saudi Arabia blamed those bombings on al-Qaida. A purported Bin Laden audio tape released last month promised more suicide attacks inside and outside the United States.

The Saudi TV reporter said many of the injured taken away by ambulance were children under the age of 10.

Heavy gunfire

A Jordanian resident at the compound who identified himself only as Alaa said he heard heavy gunfire before the explosion.

"I heard shots, many shots, and then one big explosion. Many villas were damaged, four or five even collapsed. My house was far away but my windows were shattered," he told Reuters.

Arabic Al Arabiya television network showed footage of the injured covered in blood in hospital.

"Four villas out of a total of 200 are occupied by Westerners, the rest are Arab nationals," Hanady al-Ghandakli, director of the Muhaya compound, told Al Arabiya. "There is one French family, one British family, two German families, Italians," she said.

Arab television reports said three Americans and three Canadians of Arab origin were among the casualties.

"This is a crime against Arabs and Muslims and innocent people and those who carried out this evil act are defiling Islam," one survivor told Al Arabiya.

Saudi forces have killed five Islamist militants in clashes since Monday, when authorities said they had foiled a planned attack on Muslim pilgrims in the holy city of Mecca.

Reuters

Filipina injured in blast, says Ople

By Jerome Aning

INITIAL casualty reports made no mention of any Filipino being killed in the Riyadh blast, but a Filipino woman was confirmed to have been wounded, Foreign Secretary Blas F. Ople yesterday said.

Ople said the Department of Foreign Affairs was withholding the name of the Filipino woman pending notification of her kin.

"Our embassy in Riyadh is providing her with all necessary assistance and we have been informed that she is safely recovering from her injuries. I hope and pray that no other Filipinos were affected by this bombing," he added.

Philippine Embassy officials are making rounds of hospitals and coordinating with Filipino community leaders to account for all Filipinos in the Saudi capital, Ople said.

Philippine Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Bahn Guinomia, who is in Manila on vacation, has been ordered to return to his post immediately.

"Nothing can justify this act and if the perpetrators think that they are aiding their cause, in the eyes of the world, they are sadly mistaken. If they think that by their terrorist act the world will be less determined to fight terror, they are also sadly mistaken," Ople said in a statement.

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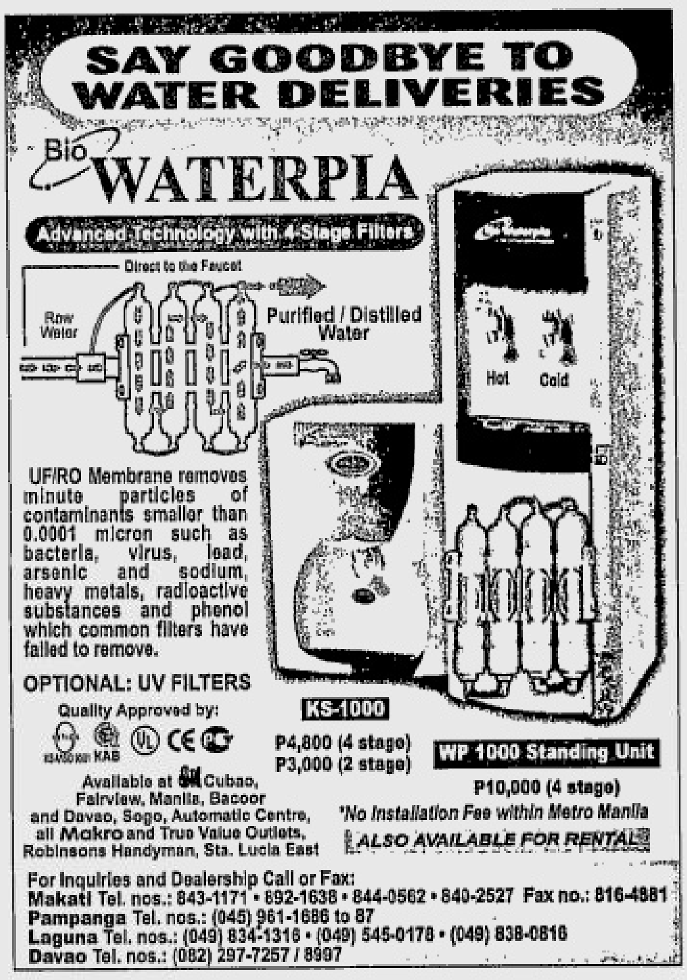

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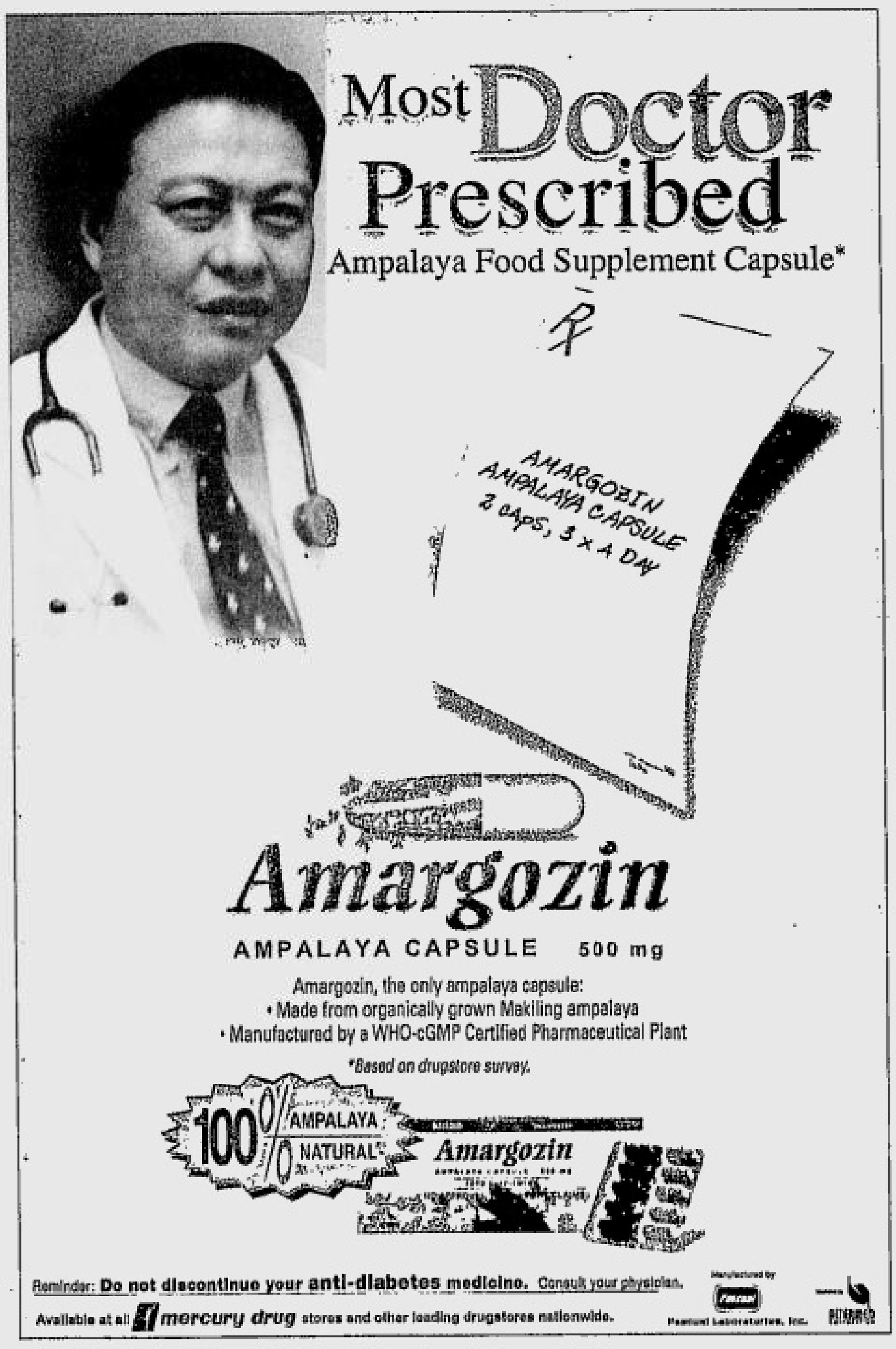

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Bear Stearns gives GMA even chance

From page A1

and may even provide a better government than the incumbent.

"The market is likely to view a (Macapagal) victory as the most positive outcome, and fear the uncertainty that a Poe of Roco victory would generate, although each of these candidates could 'in our opinion' provide an adequate government," Bear Stearns said in its latest research on emerging markets in Asia and the Pacific. "Each of the presidential candidates might even perform better than President (Macapagal) in some aspects," it added.

Bear Stearns stressed that its scenarios were "provisional" and would be revised once the presidential candidates are known.

Even so, it gives Ms Macapagal a 50-percent probability of topping next year's presidential election in which the winner is expected to garner a modest plurality—just like Fidel V. Ramos did in the crowded 1992 polls.

According to Bear Stearns, Ms Macapagal is its top pick next year because she announced her candidacy ahead of the pack and she enjoys the advantage of being an incumbent.

It noted that Ms Macapagal has the backing of the business community even though it is unsatisfied with her performance. "The other candidates have done little to convince them that they would be any better, and they could very possibly be worse," Bear Stearns said.

Despite the odds stacked in the President's favor (including the complementary remarks made by US President George W. Bush in Manila during his recent state visit), Bear Stearns considers Poe and Roco as formidable candidates who are most likely to make surprises in the 2004 elections.

Bear Stearns gave Poe a "tentative" 30-percent probability of winning next year's elections. The odds are expected to increase further once Poe formalizes his candidacy and other opposition aspirants like Sen. Panfilo Lacson gave way to the action star.

"FPJ's candidacy can be interpreted in a highly negative context, if it means 'restoration' of the 'corrupt' Estrada government. However, we do not believe that would necessarily be the case with an FPJ government, because the serious corruption in the Estrada government emanated from the person of the President. The Cabinet was overall widely respected, and probably no less or more "corrupt" than the current Cabinet," Bear Stearns said.

Unlike local political observers who dismiss Poe as worse than Estrada, Bear Stearns believes that Poe in Malacañang would not be as bad as most people fear.

"An FPJ candidacy could have an upside in terms of coherent public policy because we think he will not run unless he is satisfied that he has both concrete support and some idea of what he would do if elected," Bear Stearns said.

It said Poe can use his diplomatic skills in brokering a truce among warring political factions in the country as well as in war-torn Mindanao in view of his avid following in the Islamic community.

"This was one of President Ramos' outstanding strengths, but has been noticeably absent from the Philippine political scene since he left office," Bear Stearns said.

Bear Stearns considers Roco as No. 3 among the presidential candidates with a 20-percent probability of winning because he lacks Poe's "movie-star status" and Ms Macapagal's organization and control of the government.

However, it believes that Roco has "more upside" than both Poe and Ms Macapagal in improving his ratings in the coming months.

"Roco's strongest suits are his intellectual gifts and the strong administrative record he set during his tenure as Minister of Education. The most irritating aspect of the (Macapagal) administration is its seeming inability to coordinate solutions to policy and administrative problems across different government departments," Bear Stearns said.

Still no viable ...

From page A1

the opposition as such is a "shadow" government waiting in the wings as an alternative to the sitting government in terms of policies, personnel and vision.

Disappointment

From this criterion, Angara's search is a disappointment. An opposition worthy of the name has a duty to give the nation its best shot in the selection of its presidential contender.

Angara's short list not only devalues the concept of an opposition as an alternative to a sitting government. It also puts a premium on mediocrity, if not ignorance. It offers a free passage to political power on the back of the most minimal qualifications for the presidency, which is the most demanding and challenging service a Filipino can do for his country.

In the case of Poe, the best gift the opposition can offer this country is not vision but an illusion of "winnability." Surely, thousands of Filipinos identify with his roles in the movies, but film is merely a mimicry of real life. It transports us into a world of fiction, where problems vanish without pain.

By narrowing our choice to celebrities, the opposition is offering our people black magic as a solution to poverty, and as a substitute for intelligence, competence in economic management and an honest and efficient public administration. The selection criteria for the presidency have been so degraded that the entertainers and celebrities, among other occupational categories, have been exempted by our power brokers from rigorous qualifications we apply when recruiting clerks for the civil service.

Corporate head hunters impose stringent tests in the search of CEOs, and yet for the presidency, which is a more complex job than a CEO, we are asked to put blind trust in directing the destiny of this country in a category of people (entertainers) who do best in creating make-believe.

Celebrities are exempted from the demands for a reasonable education, public service experience and competence on office holders.

Credible alternative

The opposition is not entirely without hope in the search of an alternative to Ms Macapagal. Angara's quest might end up with himself as the opposition's most credible alternative. In the road show, he has been asked by groups, including professionals and businessmen—Why not lead the opposition ticket rather than push someone else?

In raising this scenario of a credible alternative that echoes some rumblings on the ground, my purpose is to revitalize the notion that it is the duty of the opposition to offer the nation a more rational criteria for electing leaders than just the popularity and puffery of celebrity.

An examination of the credentials of published presidential aspirants and verifiable records show that a match-up between Ms Macapagal and Angara, as opposition leader, could change the agenda of the 2004 elections. Neither is immensely charismatic. Both have low poll ratings.

We can compare their credentials. Both have academic and intellectual credentials (Angara, a lawyer, was University of the Philippines president; Ms Macapagal has a Ph.D. in economics from UP. Angara was executive secretary and agriculture secretary of the Estrada administration; Ms Macapagal was vice president, previously a senior bureaucrat in the Department of Trade and Industry. Angara was Senate President; Ms Macapagal, a senator with an outstanding record in the Senate. Both have considerable experience in policy formulation).

Their face-off could transform the 2004 elections into a lofty discourse over issues and policies, lifting the quality of public debate above the atmosphere of poisonous name-calling. This shift in the focus of public discourse can rescue the nation from being boxed in, not having a reasonable choice between those with substantial credentials for the presidency and empty heads basking in the seductive glow of celebrity.

Avoiding celebrity trap

If this head-to-toe confrontation develops, we will have a rare moment of an election with a high intellectual content, offering rational choices. In refocusing the election agenda to the principle of offering the nation clear and contrasting alternatives, we have an escape route from the celebrity trap.

To me, it is less important whether Angara wins or loses. The most important service the opposition can render the people is to give them a break from the sterile spell of celebrity politics.

This opportunity of change in the election agenda recalls Illinois Gov. Adlai E. Stevenson, who ran against and lost to the immensely popular war hero, Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, in the 1952 elections. A man of delectable wit and elegant in language, Stevenson, according to a book by Alexander Leitch, "elevated American political discussion beginning with his acceptance speech," of the Democratic Party nomination.

Stevenson said: "Let's talk sense to the American people. Let's tell them the truth, that there are no gains without pains, that we are now on the eve of great decisions, not easy decisions ...but a long patient, costly struggle which alone can assure triumph over the enemies of man—war, poverty and tyranny and the assaults upon human dignity which are the most grievous consequences of each."

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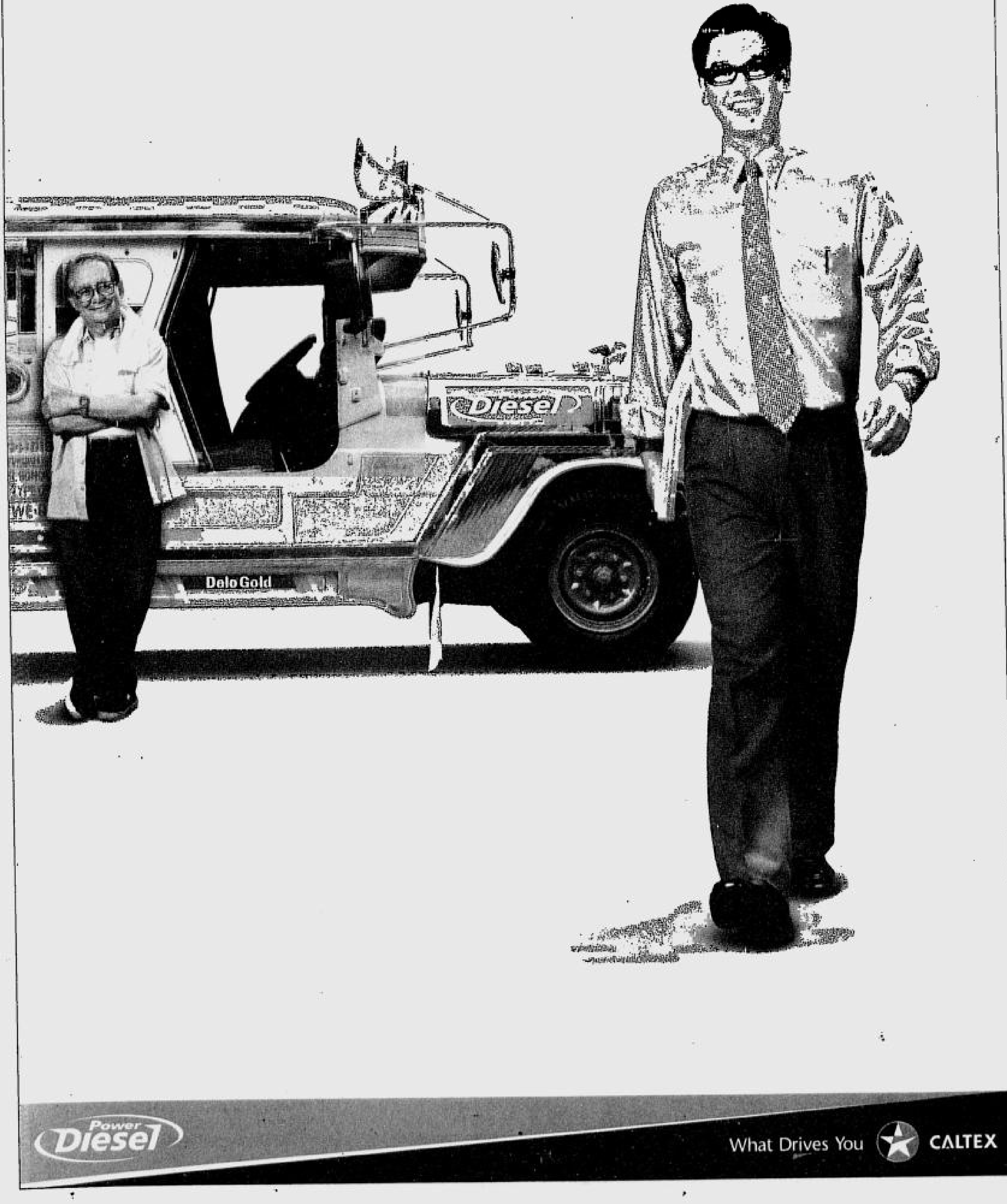


Day of reckoning

From page A1

117 congressmen had signed or signified support for the covenant, which among its other provisions calls for either the withdrawal or deferment of the transmittal.

"The covenant does not mean a loss of face for the House but will put the House on a high moral and political ground and on an equal footing with the executive department and the judiciary," De Venecia said.

Rep. Robert Ace Barbers (Lakas, Surigao del Norte) said support for the covenant could "go up to 70 to 80 percent (of the House) when session resumes Monday."

"We would like to reach out to those who signed the impeachment complaint to consider the formula laid down in the covenant," Barbers said.

Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. (Lakas, Surigao del Sur) said an agreement on the covenant was "more imperative now than ever to prevent anti-democratic forces from exploiting the situation.

"It is in the best interest of the nation for all parties to accept the covenant," Pichay said.

At the El Shaddai rally, De Venecia said he hoped for an "early signing—either Sunday night or Monday morning—of the covenant proposed by President Macapagal-Arroyo to avert a constitutional crisis.

"We pray that the arrogance, self-pride and self-interest on the part of the Supreme Court and House could be reduced and that humility can take over," the Speaker said during the rally.

De Venecia gave the assurance that a quorum would be met today. "We have asked all members to attend the session so that we can put this agreement in place," he said.

Pro-impeachment Rep. Jacinto Paras (Lakas, Negros Oriental) called on De Venecia to personally preside over today's session to ensure orderly proceedings."

"It will be smooth sailing in the House (Monday) if JDV (De Venecia), the Mister Suave in parliamentary rules, will oversee the proceedings," Paras said.

Withdraw signatures

Anti-impeachment congressmen, not leaving anything to chance, are also working overtime on their *agaw-pirma* (signature snatching) drive.

According to a highly placed source who requested anonymity, at least 10 and as many as 15 more lawmakers, including six from the Nationalist People's Coalition, have withdrawn or committed to withdraw their signatures from the second impeachment complaint against Davide.

A high of 95 lawmakers had signed the complaint, but as of last week, 10 had already withdrawn their signatures, leaving only 85 signatories.

The new withdrawals, if true, would whittle down the total to anywhere between a low 70 and a close-to-the-margin 75.

Under the one-third rule, an impeachment complaint shall be automatically transmitted to the Senate upon the endorsement of 76 or one-third of the 226-strong House of Representatives.

The source identified the six NPC congressmen as Representatives Alipio Cirilo Badelles (Lanao del Norte), Angelo Montillo (Sultan Kudarat), Jesnar Falcon (Surigao del Sur), Roseller Barinaga (Zamboanga del Norte), Generoso Tulagan (Pangasinan) and Tomas Dumpit (La Union).

The same source identified five other lawmakers from different parties: Representatives Luis Bersamin Jr. (PDSP, Abra), Aleta Suarez (LP, Quezon), Eric Singson (LP, Ilocos Sur), Amado Espino (Lakas, Pangasinan) and Wilhemino Sy-Alvarado (Lakas, Bulacan).

The source noted that Representatives Del de Guzman (Lakas, Marikina) and Joel Villanueva (party-list Cibac) had earlier manifested support for the covenant aimed at settling the issue.

But the source could not reveal the names of the 14th and 15th congressmen.

Pro-impeachment congressmen, however, said they remained undaunted.

"We will have the numbers (today) and we will push for the impeachment complaint," Rep. Harry Angping (NPC, Manila) said.

Rep. Felix William Fuentebella (NPC, Camarines Sur) said: "As of today (Sunday), the complaint still has 86."

Paraphrasing the fictional Roman general Maximus in the movie "Gladiator," Fuentebella said: "We have stayed together. We have held the line."

Southern Leyte Rep. Aniceto Saludo said the Lakas-CMD could not convince him to soften his stand because this was not a party matter.

"This is a matter of individual rights. I don't need the Lakas. They need me," Saludo said in an interview over radio station dySL.

In a brief telephone interview, Secretary Gabriel Claudio, presidential adviser for legislative concerns, hinted at a change in fortunes. "There are indications that the number 76 will be breached," he said.

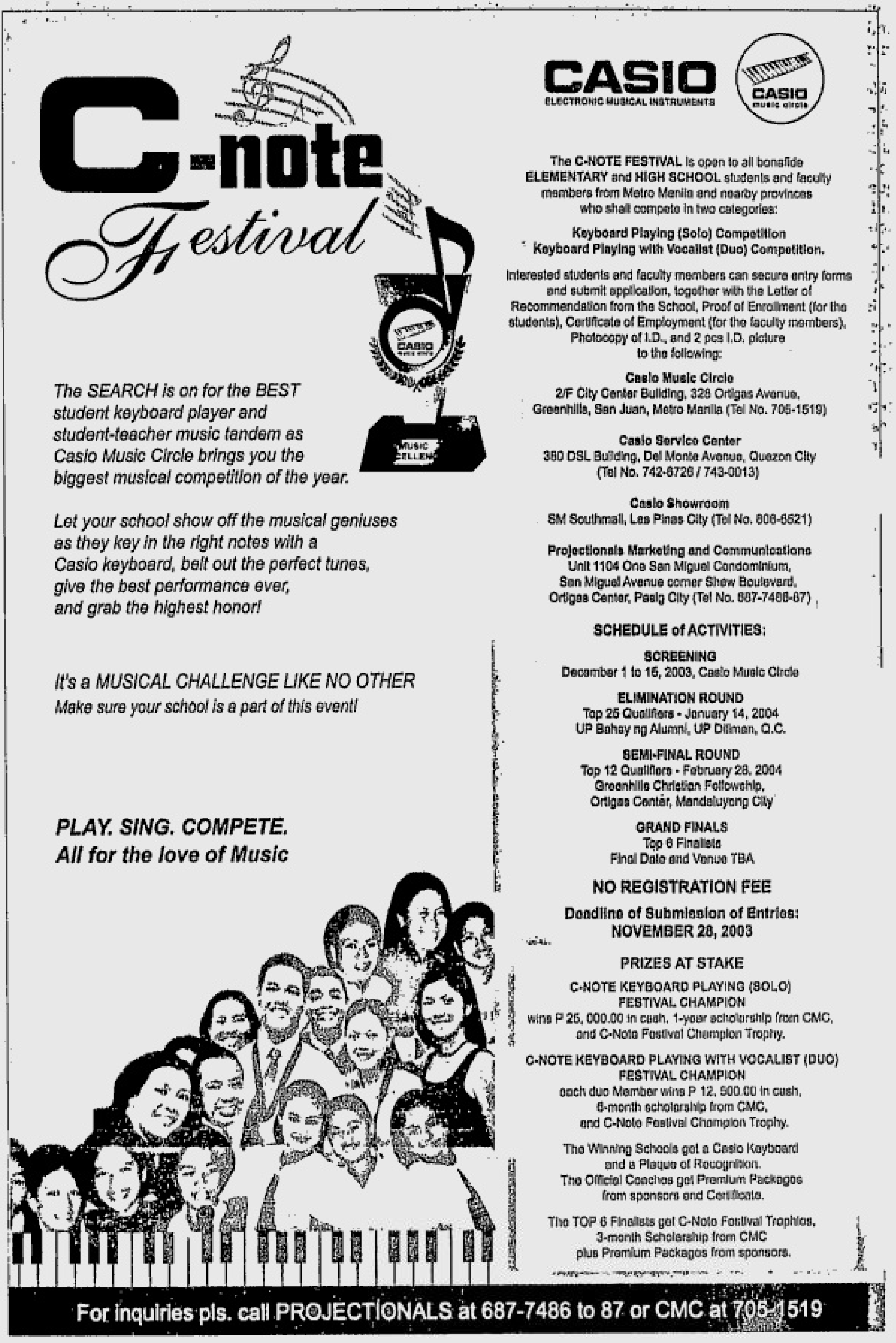
Refuse to accept

Administration Sen. Ralph Recto said that in the event the tribunal rules the complaint unconstitutional, the Senate can refuse to accept the Articles of Impeachment.

"The Senate should obey and enforce a Supreme Court ruling declaring the House move unconstitutional," Recto said in a statement. "Any Supreme Court ruling, whether for or against the House move, should be the Senate's lone guidepost and sole source of illumination on the issue."

Fellow administration Sen. Francis Pangilinan warned that the insistence of some lawmakers that the impeachment complaint they filed against Davide was legal "is a go-signal to unleash anarchy in our land, now held hostage to politics of the most destructive kind.

"If some lawmakers can short-circuit the whole impeachment process without regard for the Constitution, then the message is that our fundamental law and our Constitution might as well be violated by all and sundry," he said. *With reports from Gil Cabacungan, Christine O. Avendaño; and Jani Arnaiz and Kathy I. Navarro, PDI Visayas Bureau*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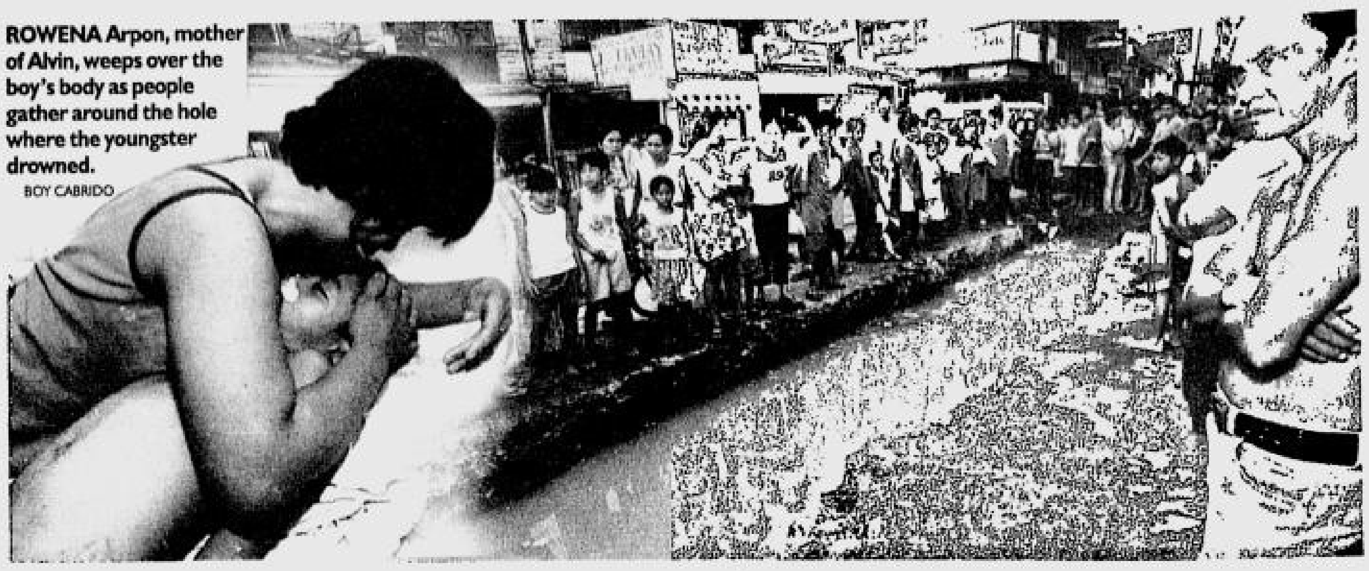

ROWENA Arpon, mother of Alvin, weeps over the boy's body as people gather around the hole where the youngster drowned.
BOY CABRIDO

Boy drowns in digging

By Cenon Bibe Jr.
Metro Deskman

AN EIGHT-YEAR-OLD boy died Sunday afternoon after he took a swim in a flooded excavation in Makati City.

At about 3:30 p.m., Alvin Arpon of 3700 Cristobal St., Barangay Tejeros, Makati City, went with four other young boys to Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo), which was being excavated by RII Builders Inc.

RII Builders has won the contract to lay 600-millimeter main water pipes of the Manila Water Inc. along the city road.

Stripping naked, the five boys jumped into the murky water of a 4-foot wide and 20-foot long hole that had been carved out in front of the Olledrob nightclub between Kalayaan and Barasoain Streets in Barangay Olympia.

Moments later, the boys were scampering out after learning that the excavation was deeper than they thought.

Seeing that Arpon had not yet surfaced, the boys sought the help of Rodelio de Jesus, 33, a tricycle driver who jumped into the hole to look for the boy.

"The bottom was thick and muddy," said De Jesus, who searched in five-foot-deep water using his feet and legs.

Finding Arpon, De Jesus rushed him to the nearby Ma. Lourdes Maternity Hospital, where the child was declared dead on arrival by Dr. Nathaniel Dickenson.

Joel Lacsamana, Manila Water corporate communications manager, said the firm already initiated an investigation to determine whether or not RII Builders had violated the strict safety measures stipulated in their contract.

Lacsamana stressed that the diggings should have been secured with board-ups, barriers and signs to prevent anyone from falling in.

He added that the contractor, which he said was taking primary responsibility for the incident, would be talking to Arpon's family.

At the same time, Manila Water was moving to ensure that no one else falls into the diggings.

3-hour outage spoils last day of poll list-up

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

FRUSTRATION marked the last day of registration of new and transferee voters in Caloocan City yesterday after a three-hour brownout paralyzed the operations.

The brownout hit at about 10 a.m., just as hundreds of last-day registrants waited outside the local Commission on Elections office.

Registration officers and the registrants, some of whom arrived as early as 5 a.m., helplessly sweated it out until power came back at about 1:30 p.m.

Analiza Gutierrez, 26, arrived at the office at about 6 a.m. to register as a new voter.

When the INQUIRER chanced upon her at 3 p.m., she was still standing outside the Comelec office, waiting for her turn.

Aside from the power interruption, registration officials blamed the habit of many Filipinos of waiting for the last-minute before doing what they had to do.

Security officer Raymond Baldonado told the INQUIRER that yesterday's number of registrants was the largest they have had in a single day since registration began several months ago.

Baldonado noted that registrants carrying incomplete documents or having incorrectly filled up forms added to the delay.

The deadline for the registration of new voters and transferees was initially scheduled on Oct. 30. The Comelec extended it up to 8 p.m. yesterday.

But because of the power interruption, Caloocan City 2nd District election officer IV Elmer Kayanan decided to extend the registration up to 11:59 last night.

At many times during the day, tempers competed with the heat inside the Comelec office.

And as of yesterday afternoon, the registration officers could barely smile because of exhaustion.

Baldonado himself had not gone home for two days. But he said he was enjoying his job of preserving order amid chaos.

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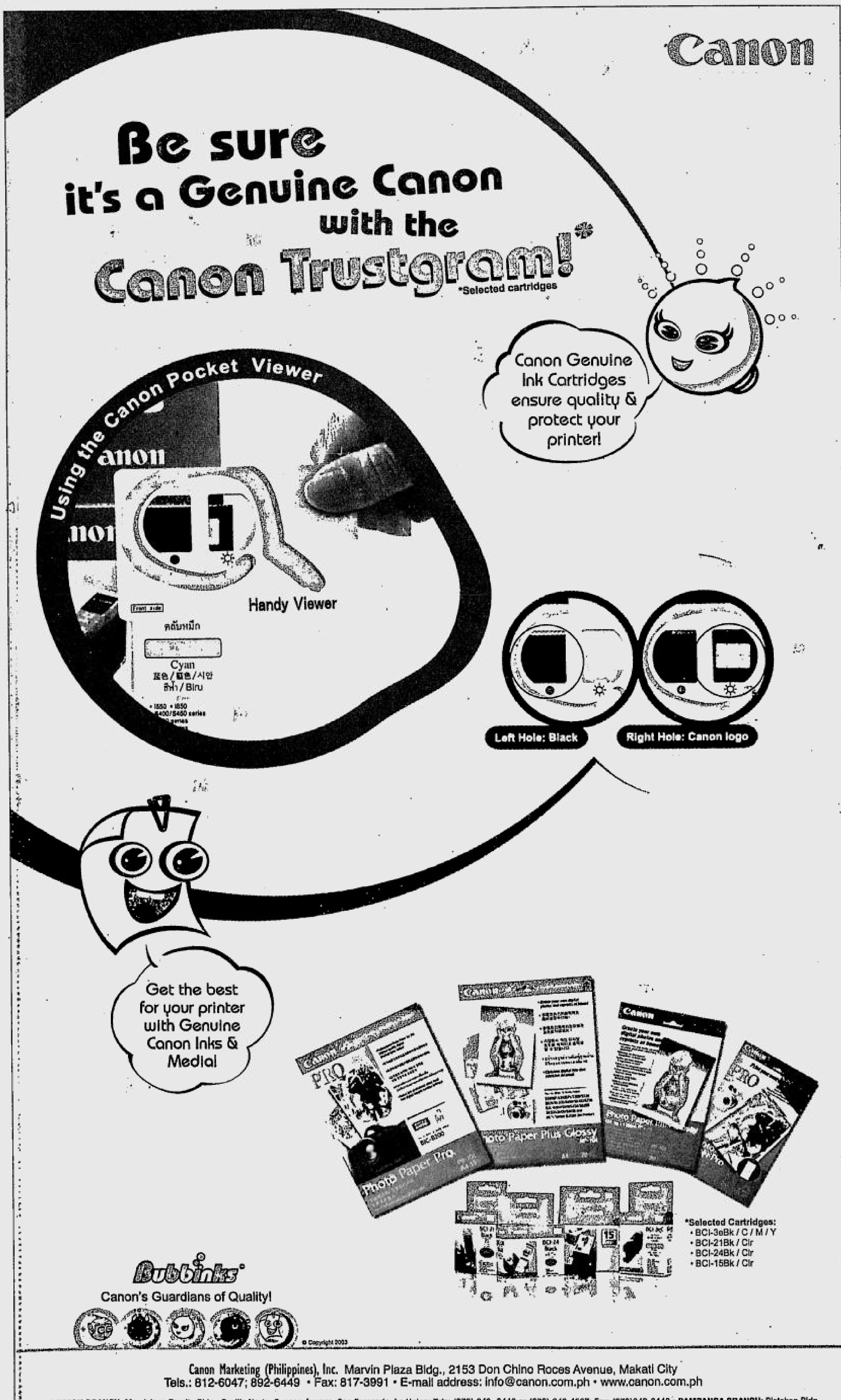

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METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

Boy, 10, asks for guava, gets a bullet instead

By Edson Castro Tandoc Jr.

HE ONLY wanted some guavas.

But when Raymart Dahilog, 10, and his friends asked the tree's owner if they could have some of its fruits, the owner allegedly went inside the house, took a gun and fired at the kids, killing Dahilog.

The suspect, Uldarico Ruiz, 47, later surrendered to the police. He is now detained at the Central Police District Investigation Division.

Witnesses told the INQUIRER that around 9 a.m. the other day, Dahilog and his three friends went to Ruiz' house along Don Vicente Street, Don Antonio Heights, Holy Spirit, Quezon City, to ask for some guavas. The children had learned from other kids in the neighborhood that the guava tree in Ruiz' compound was teeming with fruits.

Dahilog and his friends pressed the doorbell to ask permission from the owner if they could climb the guava tree. But an angry Ruiz came out, carrying a bat.

Because of fear, the four kids ran away. One of them went to another direction while Dahilog and his two friends hid behind a post.

Ruiz allegedly went back inside his house. When he came out, he was already carrying a gun.

After seeing the gun, the three kids panicked. They started running but then Ruiz allegedly fired his gun.

The next thing the kids knew was that Dahilog was already bleeding. Still afraid, Dahilog even crawled a few meters away, one of the kids said.

By 10 a.m., the news reached Dahilog's mother Norma. One of her sisters texted her that her son was shot.

Dahilog was brought to the Malvar General Hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival. Dahilog should be turning 11 on Nov. 22.

"*Gusto ko siyang* (Ruiz) *patayin. Bakit niya ito ginawa sa anak ko?* (I want to kill Ruiz. Why did he kill my son?)," Norma told the INQUIRER yesterday.

She initially had trouble getting her son's body from the morgue on Saturday. The hospital would not release a clearance until she paid the entire amount of more than P7,000. But Norma only had P2,000.

But yesterday, she went around borrowing money from her friends and managed to come up with the balance.

The INQUIRER tried to talk to Ruiz. But his wife, Proserfina, 44, who has been with Ruiz since he surrendered, said they would not comment yet about the case.

Jewelry worth ₱.5M lost in morning rob

ROBBERS no longer use the cover of darkness to strike at any victim.

At around 8:30 a.m. yesterday, three of them hit businesswoman Teresa Casas as she was about to enter the gate of her mother-in-law's house in Barangay Palanan, Makati City.

Police said Casas went there to just trade the car she was using for another car in the garage.

One of the robbers poked a gun at Casas' son at the gate, then took the businesswoman's shoulder bag containing cash and jewelry worth half-a-million pesos, police said.

Casas also lost her driver's license, SSS and TIN cards, and credit cards. *Christine Paita*

Try unique river ride in Marikina

By Luige del Puerto

IF YOU think river systems are dead in Metro Manila, think again.

For the last two weeks now, motorized bancas have been plying the Marikina River, ferrying passengers to and from the amphitheater in Barangay Barangka and the River Park, where a tiangge bazaar sizzles at night.

The ride is not exactly exemplary. It's not as exciting as the river ride in Pagsanjan, Laguna, and the truth is, there's not much to see along the riverbanks, except for a few sculpted animals (watch out for the big, white lizard).

But it offers a unique experience to urbanites who might have had enough of all too familiar gimmicks in malls, night strips and restaurants.

It also provides a glimpse of how things could be if the Marikina and Pasig Rivers are developed into transportation systems, similar to the Mekong River and Red River Area in Vietnam, or the Chao Phraya River in Thailand.

"It's beautiful. It's weird. People should experience this," said Nancy Marilag, who brought along two grandchildren to the ride.

"I wish they could expand this transportation system," she added.

The ride lasts around 15 minutes and costs only P10 for adults and P5 for kids.

And while the air is not exactly fresh, the river does not smell, thanks to a sustained rehabilitation program spearheaded by the city in the 1990s.

Ponchie Santos, head of the city's Parks Development Office, said they started the river ride last year in time for the Sapatero Festival and the Tiangge Bazaar.

"It's only here until early January so I urge people to try it now," he said.

The river taxis (there are three now) come from Binangonan, Rizal, and could carry up to 150 people per trip.

Last week, the City Council raised safety concerns over the ride, but banca operators have vouched for its safety.

"As you know, there has been no accident since we operated here," said Edwin Gregorio, 21, a banca owner.

"There are two reasons for that. One is that there is no wave here, and two, the water is shallow," he said.

The bancas also have life jackets.

Besides that, the parks development office is equipped with a speedboat, which could easily respond to any emergency, according to Santos.

Gregorio said during Saturdays and Sundays, they could ply the river eight times, compared to only three at most in Rizal, where they carry residents to and from Talim Island.

Gregorio said he too hopes the day would come when they could carry passengers—not just curious tourists—beyond Marikina City.

"Rivers are very efficient transport systems. We hope we could develop one in Metro Manila soon," he said.

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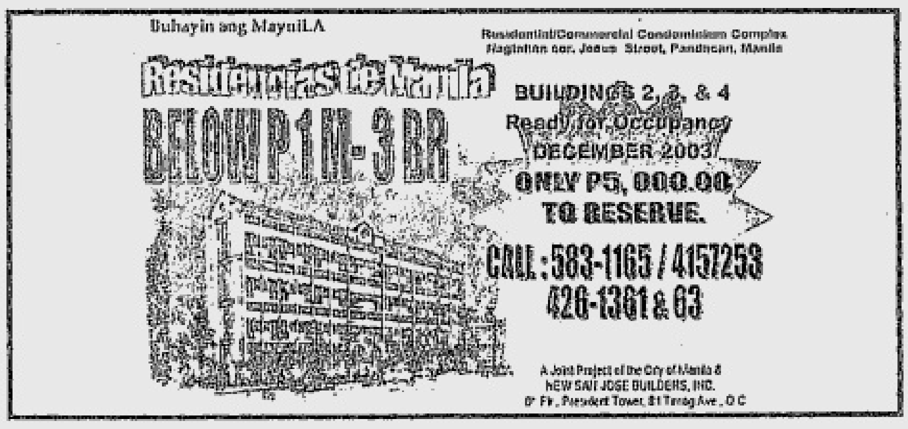
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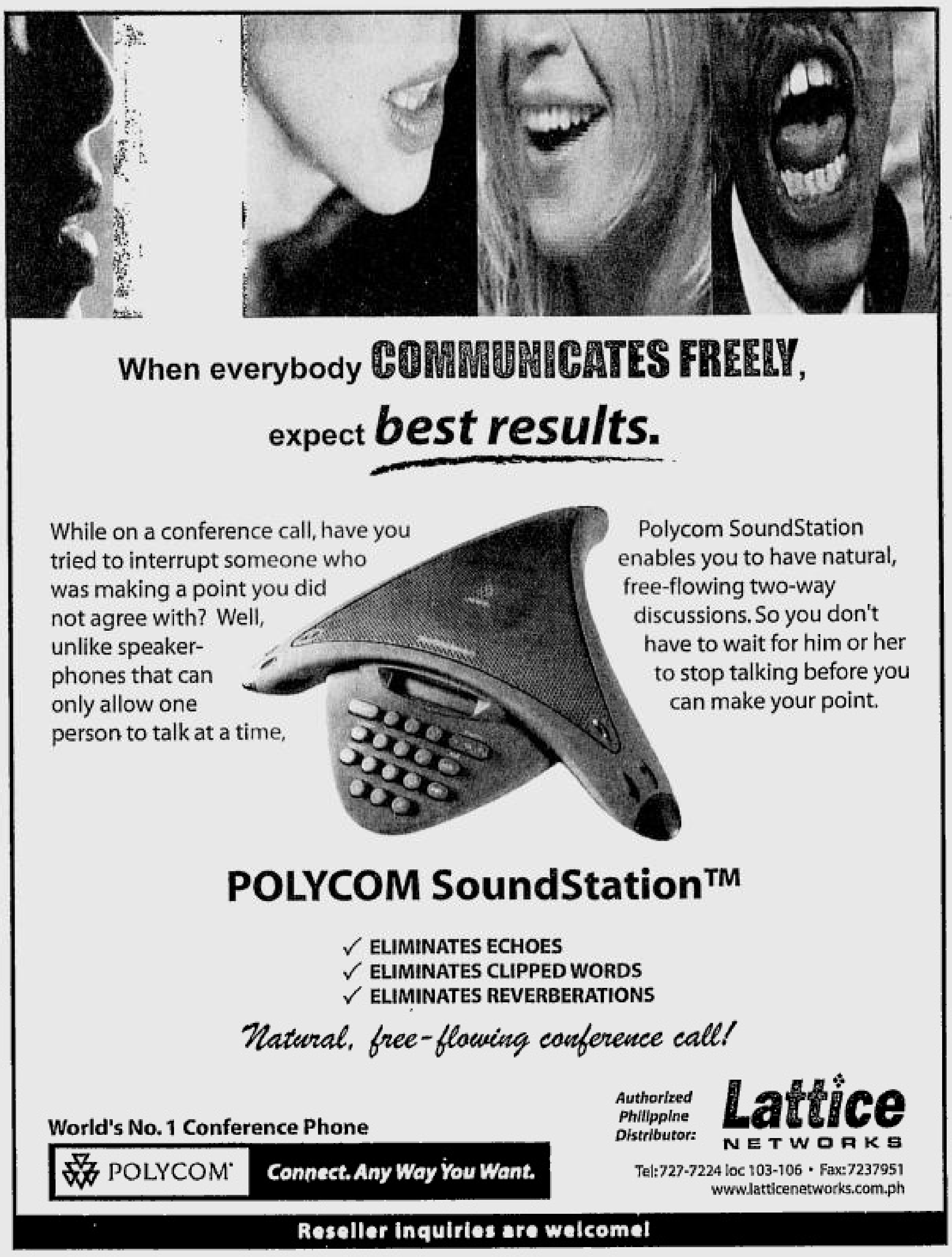
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Alapag powers TNT past Red Bull

Phone Pals stop Barakos' 10-game streak, move a win from semis

GAMES WEDNESDAY (*Philsports Arena*)
5 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Alaska
7:30 p.m.—San Miguel vs FedEx

By June Navarro

JIMMY Alapag came out of a slump and powered Talk 'N Text to a resounding 120-116 victory over Red Bull Barako last night at the start of the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference quarterfinals at the Araneta Coliseum.

The pint-sized rookie playmaker pumped in 28 points and issued 12 assists as the Phone Pals took the headstart in their best-of-three series against the top-ranked Barakos.

"He (Alapag) knows that in the quarterfinals, he must elevate his game to another level," said Talk 'N Text coach Joel Banal, whose Phone Pals will go for the clincher on Friday.

Aside from getting back at the Barakos who handily beat them in the elims, the Phone Pals snapped Red Bull's 10-game streak, a feat no team had accomplished in the last seven years.

"Obviously, the law of averages caught up with them (Red Bull). I'm sure they will be a different team in Game 2 so we'll have to be ready for that," said Banal.

"The real Red Bull will show itself on Friday," he added.

Alapag, who averaged 12 points and eight assists in the eliminations, proved to be the biggest thorn on the side of the Barakos as he masterfully orchestrated the Phone Pals' offense.

Alapag made his teammates feel and look really good on the floor that five other Phone Pals finished in double figures.

Damien Cantrell pumped in 27 points and hauled down 17 rebounds, Asi Taulava finished with 17, Bong Ravena added 13 while Harvey Carey and Victor Pablo had 11 points apiece.

"My players were properly motivated. I guess this was the fruit of staying closely together and I hope to do this as far as we can go," said Banal, who steered the Phone Pals to their first-ever championship title in the season's first tournament, the All Filipino Cup .

The Barakos were in the thick of the fight in the first half only to lose steam at the start of the third quarter.

The Phone Pals overhauled a 59-54 halftime deficit and leaned on Taulava, Ravena, Carey and Alapag to take command, 85-77, midway in the third period.

Willie Miller, Scott Burrell and Nelson Asaytono fought back for the Barakos but the

ALAPAG/ A27

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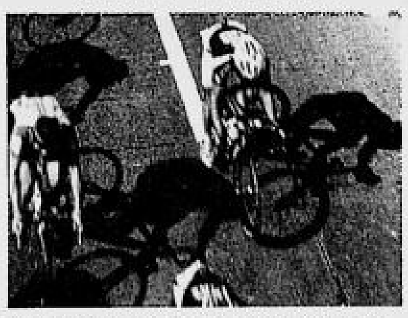


■ Reynante rules Tour of MM special race /A26

■ Jamison lifts Dallas past San Antonio /A28

■ Jones wins by majority decision /A30

■ Wind Blown leads Mitra Cup winners /A32

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

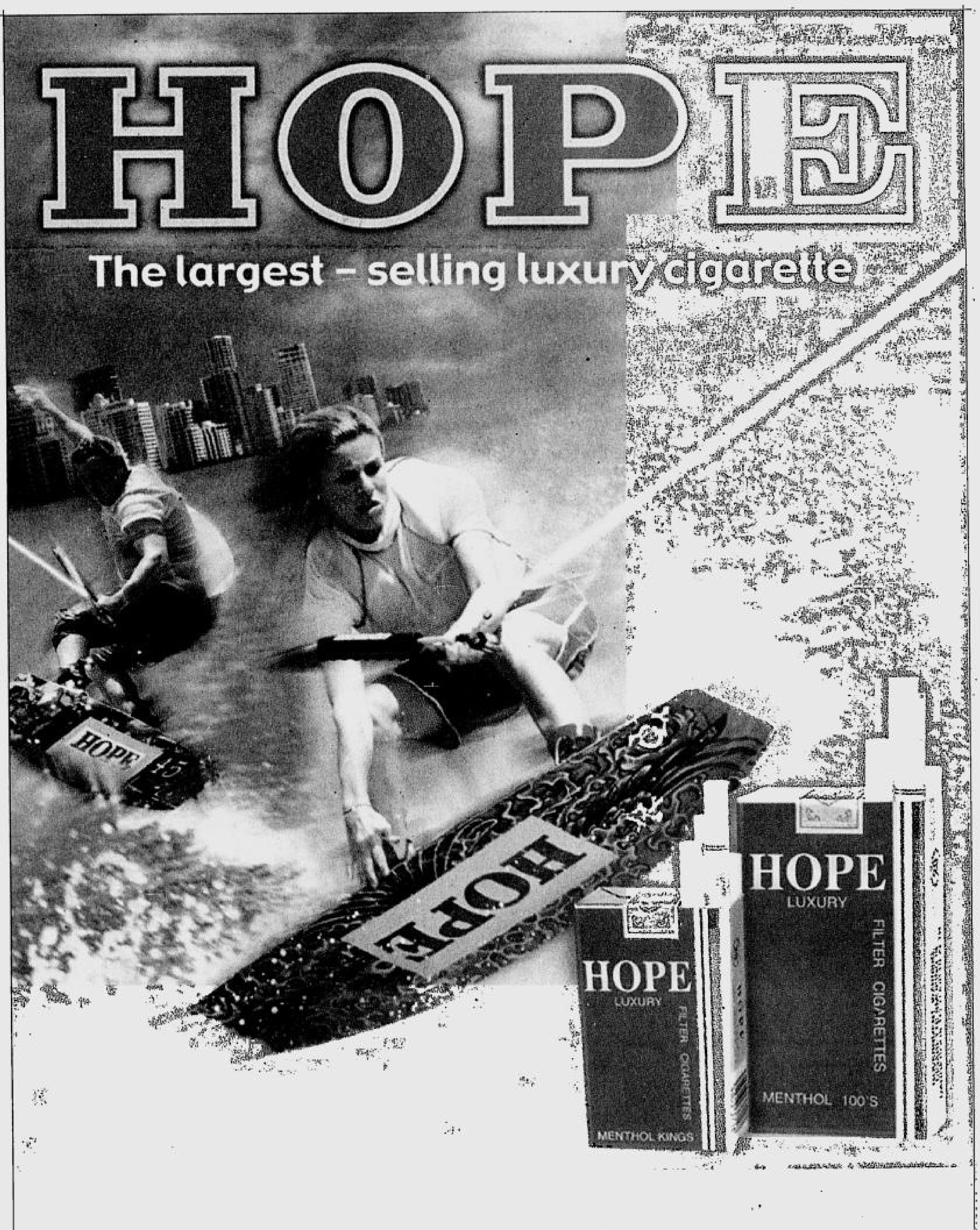
BASKETBALL: NBA-Hawks vs Sonics; 10 a.m.; Solar Sports; Pacers vs Sixers; 7 p.m.; IBC 13—Atlanta faces Seattle while Indiana visits Philadelphia.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL-Ravens vs Rams; 9:30 a.m. (r-5 p.m.); ESPN—Former Super Bowl champions Baltimore and St. Louis try to relive their glory days as they take on each other.

GOLF: The Tour Championship; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. (r); Star Sports—Take another look at the final round from Houston.

FOOTBALL: EPL-Liverpool vs Manchester United; 1 p.m. (r); Chelsea vs Newcastle United; 3 p.m.(r); ESPN—England's premier clubs take center stage.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.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REYES (right) shot down Mika Immonen to forge a semifinal match with Filipino-Canadian Alex Pagulayan. ERIK ARAZAS

JAPAN 9-BALL TILT

Bata, 2 other RP bets gain semis

EFREN "Bata" Reyes and Canadian-based Filipino Alex Pagulayan arranged a semifinal duel yesterday in the World Pool Billiard Association 9-ball championship in Saitama, Japan.

Reyes ousted Mika Immonen of Finland while Pagulayan nipped another Filipino standout, Antonio "Nikoy" Lining, in the quarterfinals.

Antonio Gabica tries to make it an all-Filipino title showdown when he takes on Japan's Shintaro Sugaya in the other semifinal clash.

Gabica advanced at the expense of Japan's Junsuke Inoye while Sugaya prevailed over compatriot Hiroshi Takanaka.

Aside from Immonen, the 2001 WPA winner Reyes had earlier beaten compatriot Ramil "Bebeng" Gallego and Swede Niclas Bergendorff.

The New York-based Immonen had ousted 2003 World Pool Cardiff Thorsten Hohmann of Germany in the round of 16.

Lining reached the quarterfinals by ousting defending Tokyo 9-ball champ Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Swede Tom Storm.

Gabica smashed four-time world champion and recent RP vs Rest of the World champion Johnny "The Scorpion" Archer of the United States in the round of 32 and Dutch Nick Van den Berg in the quarterfinals.

Pagulayan's early victims were Japanese Gou Takami and Filipino Ronnie "Calamba" Alcano.

Inoye made it to the quarterfinals by trouncing Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat, who had earlier eliminated Ralf "Kaiser" Souquet of Germany in the round-of-32.

The champion will receive $15,000 while the runner-up will take home $7,000.

Marlon Bernardino, contributor

Son of cycling great prevails

REYNANTE (right) and Tanguilig celebrate at the finish line. RUDY ESPERAS

LUCIEN Lloyd Reynante, son of a bikathon great, finally wheeled to prominence yesterday by ruling the first Tour of Metro Manila cycling race that started and ended at the Marikina City Sports Spark.

Exploiting his familiarity of the 114-km route, Reynante showed the way home for Pagcor teammate Rhyan Tanguilig after breaking away as the lead pack slowed down due to a traffic snarl in Sucat.

The son of former Tour champion Manuel "Mawi" Reynante, who rides daily through Sucat to and from his residence in Alabang, used a street-wise tactic to escape the group's attention and speed away for the win, worth P25,000.

He clocked two hours 39 minutes 32.97 seconds as he nosed out Tanguilig after a never-say-die sprint duel to the wire.

Reynante said he knew there would be heavy traffic in Sucat so he seized the chance to break away.

"Nung tumira kami, 'yung iba, hindi nakapansin na nag-break-away na kami. 'Yung iba, nakapansin pero struggling na sila dahil sobra ang traffic (Some riders saw our breakaway, but they were held up by the traffic)," said Tanguilig after the race principally sponsored by Air21 and backed by FedEx, Mail and More, BPI-MS, Caltex and Lipovitan.

The two were met at the finish line by PagcorSports team manager Louie Carlos, who extended the greetings of Pagcor chair Ephraim Genuino and bathed the once feuding teammates in cool splashes of water. The two hugged each other at the finish and raised each other's hands in victory.

In last summer's Tour revival, the two often joked about being the Batman and Robin of the cycling spectacle, only to be split towards the end of the race when Tanguilig felt Reynante abandoned him in favor of the latter's national teammates. Yesterday, they were once more the "uncaped" crusaders on two wheels, taking a lead of one minute and 35 seconds entering the uphill climb in Antipolo and hitting 85 kmh on the downslope to cruise to the victory.

Samsung's Merculio Ramos came in third in 2:40:48.09 while Intel's Warren Davadilla copped fourth place. Ronald Gorantes came in fifth with a time of 2:40:55.56.

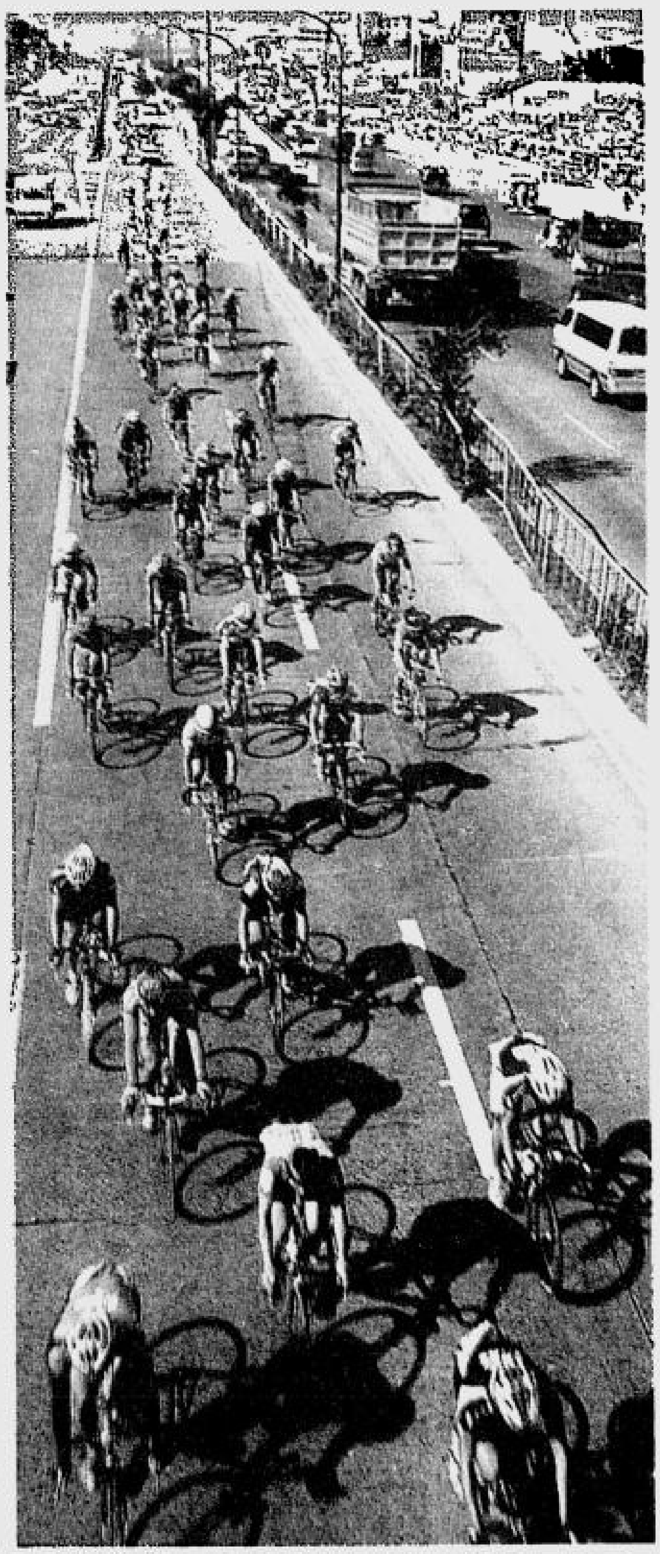
Claiming sixth to 10th spots of the race met warmly by Marikina Mayor Marides Fernando were PLDT's Albert Primero, Tanduay's Arnel Quirimit, Postmen's Enrique Domingo, Intel's Paolo Manapul and Eco Savers' Dionisio Mendoza.

The group hit the finish line in a pack timed at 2:42:25.17.

Tanguilig, who shook the national cycling team with a near gigantic upset in last summer's Tour, won P20,000.

"Halos hindi ko rin napansin na naka-breakaway na kami (We simply pulled away from our pursuers)," said Tanguilig, who was drafted by the national team after his fearless performance in last summer's road race.

The race started after Tour Pilipinas co-chairpeson Sylvia P. Lina had exhorted the cyclists to give their best for the special one-day race.



THE PELOTON behind the breakaway pair tackles the high-speed stretch along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City. RUDY ESPERAS

Indon lass takes ITF singles title

SEVENTH seed Sandy Gumulya of Indonesia outlasted Marija Abramovic of Croatia, 1-6, 6-4, 6-1, yesterday to cop the singles crown in the US$10,000 Union Cement-International Tennis Federation Women's Circuit 1 at the Ynares Socio-Cultural Center in Pasig City.

The world's No. 717 Gumulya overcame a sluggish start to win her first international women's title.

"I'm happy to win," said the 17-year-old Jakarta-born baseliner, who reached the singles semifinals of the recent first Afro-Asian Games in Hyderabad, India.

Gumulya, her country's No. 2 junior player who is tipped to play in next month's Vietnam SEA Games, hopes to keep her form in the next leg which will be played at the Manila Polo Club.

In doubles play, American Julianna Gates and Polish Monika Krauze foiled the upset bid of Filipino pair Czarina Mae Arevalo and Anna Patricia Santos, 6-2, 6-2, to wrap up the crown.

Olongapo bet gains PCA junior finals

TOP seed Nico Riego De Dios downed third ranked Kyle Dandan, 6-3, 6-4, yesterday to barge into the boys' 18-under finals yesterday in the PCA Open Juniors Tennis Championships at the PCA outdoor courts.

Riego De Dios, a senior at the Olongapo City National High School, meets the winner between Nestor Celestino Jr. and Jandrick de Castro for the title.

In the boys' 16-under division, No.1 Christian Canlas defeated No. 3 Daniel Luis Macalino, 6-1, 7-6(5), to advance against No. 4 Ralf Kevin Barte, who rallied past No.2 Raymond Villarete, 7-6 (4), 2-6, 6-4.

Top ranked Pablo Olivarez II downed Marvin Serito, 6-2, 7-5, to advance to the boys' 14-under finals against No.7 Leyan Moncera, a 6-2, 6-1 winner over Mark Balce, while Kim Ivor Saraza upset No. 3 Juan Gabriel Pena, 6-1, 6-0, and No. 4 Edwin Olivarez Jr. defeated Roman Floreza, 6-3, 6-1, to dispute the boys' 12-under title.

Playing in the unisex 10-under finals are No.1 Bernardine Siso, who beat Jacob Lagman, 6-2, 6-0, and Jose Lorenzo Ferrer, who struggled past No. 2 Juan Pocholo Macalino, 3-6, 6-1, 6-0.

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That is why it is highly improper and irregular to entrust the management of the multi-billion-peso fund solely to people close to Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.—his children **Brian Hilary Davide** and **Noreen Davide Salas.**

The Chief Justice designated his son, **Brian Hilary,** vice-chair of the bids and awards committee responsible for the procurement of imported drapes and curtains that now adorn the SC session hall, the expensive chairs of the justices, the luxury vehicles as well as the construction and renovation of the luxurious mansions in Baguio City for the use of the magistrates.

Noreen was likewise named in charge of the procurement and supply of uniforms of all judiciary employees nationwide.

This is a clear case of **nepotism** made glaringly improper by the involvement of Davide's two children in the misuse of the Judiciary Development Fund (JDF) which considerably drained the fund intended for the allowances of lowly-paid judiciary employees.

JDF is not for Justice Davide's Family.

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Recab Trinidad

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Balladeer Eddie Peregrina this sunny morning was wrestling bitter-sweetly with a song on forbidden love.

An original who perished in a car crash, Peregrina was a lot more haunting than Victor Wood who, too, was passionately pouring paeans to lost love on the same radio.

Of course, you don't fly to Davao, take a two-hour night drive on the governor's van to this place, to relive a romance with the dead.

Peregrina songs, you can bet safely, are no longer the top tunes in this lively province.

This is two mornings after the siege on the Naia, a Sunday, and what stands out here is a vibrant community at the foot of the fabulous Mt. Apo trying to tell everybody what a wonderful, quiet place this is.

Main man trying to make the assurance is the sure-handed Manny Piñol, governor of the Province of North Cotabato.

Piñol, son of dedicated school teachers from nearby M'lang, wants to again send the message that Kidapawan, and his entire province, is a happy, hope-filled place for the living.

***

You're free to believe that or not.

Wasn't Fathur al-Ghozi supposed to have been intercepted and shot at Pigkawayan, an hour and a half by car from here?

That incident was to fuel fears that Moro rebels have started to roam this area.

Gov. Piñol, with an open war declared against these lawless elements, himself believed it was Divine Providence that caused the timely discovery of a powerful bomb that had been planted immediately in front of the radio booth where he was to make a regular noontime broadcast over dxND here.

This incident happened last June. The station driver supposedly checked on the red, ripening fruit of a wild tomato plant that morning, but instead found a black bag among the bush.

As it would turn out, the bag contained a powerful bomb obviously intended for the governor.

Piñol said his staff confirmed they got at least two calls earlier in the day asking whether or not he would be proceeding to his broadcast booth for his noontime slot.

Police authorities would later confirm that the discovered bomb was powerful enough to blow off the entire structure housing the radio station.

Now, Gov. Piñol wanted to swear it was no plain coincidence the wild tomato plant grew close to the broadcast booth.

And, he added, who else but God Himself could have made that tomato to fortunately ripen just in time for the bomb to be unearthed?

***

Temperate Kidapawan in the morning wears the fresh face of a hopeful young girl on her way to school.

There are awesome odds but Piñol is certain that, more than miracles, his constituents could all help and pitch in to make the province live in progress and harmony.

Or, as stated in his motto of governance, make North Cotabato one big, happy family.

You see, one thing that has made people here stick together is sports, boxing in particular.

In the two times that world boxing champion Manny Pacquiao had fought at the Kidapawan Provincial Gymnasium, fight fans here embraced the famous native of GenSan as though he were their own.

Call it a curtain-raiser or an appetizer for Pacquiao's grand Nov. 16 outing in the United States. But scheduled later this Sunday, in the same gymnasium here where Pacquiao had packed them to the rafters, is the WBC International flyweight championship between Randy Mangubat and Prince Gabi.

***

OK, Piñol himself is not about to profess the Mangubat-Gabi title bout is meant to whet local appetite for the Pacquiao fight against the world's best pound-for-pound boxer, Marco Antonio Barrera, in Texas.

But he's pinning hopes on Gabi, son of a poor fisherman, who could eventually be catapulted to full stardom depending on his stand against Mangubat, a fire-breathing, tested veteran of international campaigns.

Most fans would be seeing Gabi for the first time on television at 8 tonight, Monday, on NBN-4.

Your reporter here came all the way from Manila with the distinct hope of discovering a full-fledged boxing talent.

It's a dangerous venture underdog Gabi, now fighting out of North Cotabato, has taken on.

But, as brightly stated in a picture poster at the main hall of the Kidapawan provincial capitol: A ship in the harbor is safe, but that's not what ships are built for.

That, by the way, happens to be one of Gov. Piñol's guiding quotes on courage.

3 GMs among leaders

FILIPINO grandmasters Eugene Torre, Joey Antonio and Bong Villamayor notched their third straight wins in the 15 de Open van Leuven individual international chess championship yesterday at the 'Zaal ,Ons Huis' hall in Leuven, Belgium.

Playing white, the fifth-seeded Torre (Elo 2508) defeated David Houdart after earlier beating locals Filip Bosmans in the opening round and Albert Frank in the second round.

The fourth-ranked Antonio (Elo 2522) whipped Jonas Veryheyden following earlier wins over Marc Weiler and Mask Lacrosse.

Villamayor, rated No. 6 with his Elo 2477, scored his third win against Thomas Philipps. His earlier beat Bart Theys and Jan Rogiers.

The three RP aces shared the lead with Russian Super Grandmaster Vladimir Epishin (Elo 2658), GM Alexander Goloshchapov (Elo 2574) and Mihail Golubev (Elo 2536) of Ukraine, Pieter Claesen (Elo 2382), Shahin Mohandesi (Elo 2329) and Stephen Berry (Elo 2325).

Villamayor will play white in the fourth round against Epishin, while Torre will play with black against Goloshchapov on board 2.

Antonio, fresh from topping the 2003 Bangkok Open, will also have white in his match with Mohandesi on board 4.

Meanwhile, 2003 World Youth under-18 representative national master Oliver Barbosa (Elo 2293) bounced back with two wins after losing his first game against lowly rated opponent Galeh Khonghaloos (Elo 1815).

By trouncing Arne Van der Vurst and Gerard Burnay, Barbosa shared 18th to 42nd place. He will face Jan Rogiers in the fourth round on board 12. *NM Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

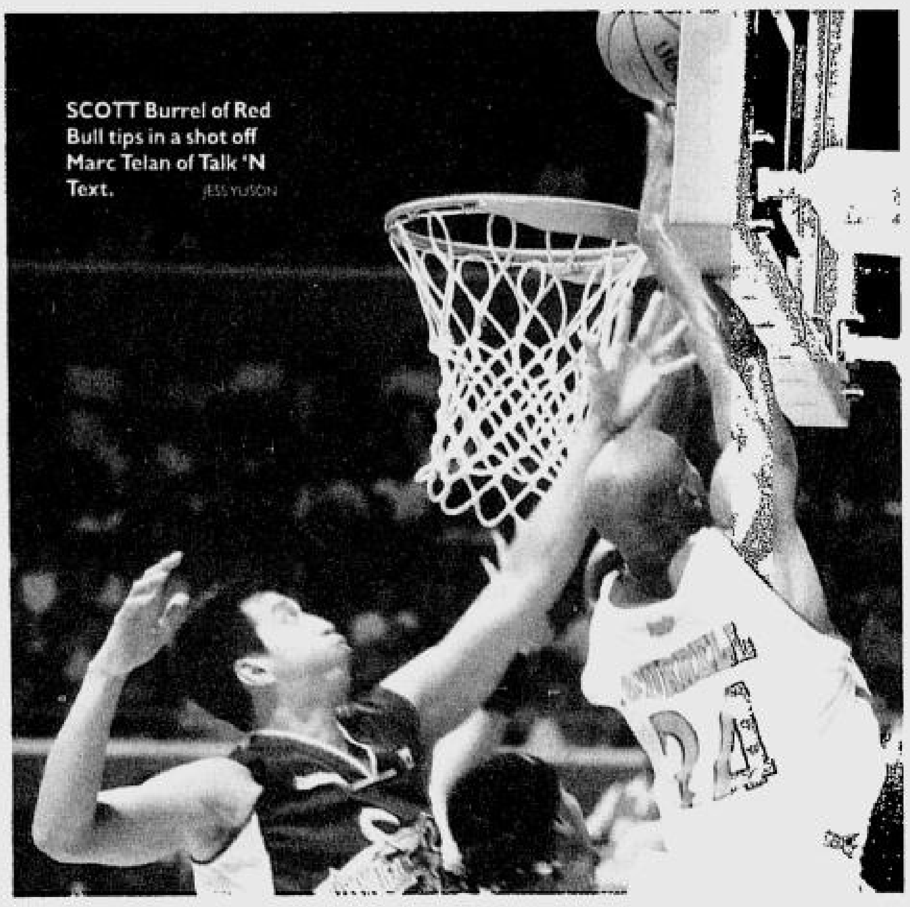
SLPC XI rules Coke tilt

LUCBAN, Quezon—SLPC (Southern Luzon Polytechnic College) Laboratory High blasted Lopez National Comprehensive High, 5-0, last Friday to win the Quezon provincial Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 football crown at the SLPC field here.

Crosby Absulio and Marion Nanola powered SLPC with two goals apiece. Adrene Salumbides tallied the other SLPC marker.

Absulio was named the tourney's most valuable player.

Over in Masbate, Cataingan National High crushed San Jacinto National High, 4-0, while Pangurihan High nipped Bolacawe Football Club, 1-0, at the Masbate Sports Complex.



SCOTT Burrel of Red Bull tips in a shot off Marc Telan of Talk 'N Text. JESS YUSON

Alapag . . .

From page A25

Phone Pals masterfully held their ground.

Davonn Harp, Topex Robinson and Miller later fouled out in the last two minutes to pave the way for the highest winning output in two years for the Phone Pals.

In the second game, Rossell Ellis scored 26 points and had 16 rebounds as Barangay Ginebra downed Coca-Cola, 104-94, to complete the night of the underdogs.

The third-ranked Gin Kings also got 13 points and 10 rebounds from Romel Adducul.

Artemus McClary erupted for 37 points and Rudy Hatfield added 21 for the Tigers.

Scores:

First Game

TALK 'N TEXT 120—Alapag 28, Cantrell 27, Taulava 17 Ravena 13, Carey 11, Pablo 11, Fran 9, Telan 2, Belano 2, Locsin 0.

RED BULL 116—Burrell 21, Miller 20, Asaytono 19, Harp 18, Robinson 11, Pennisi 8, Villanueva 6, Torion 6, Tugade 4, Valenzuela 3.

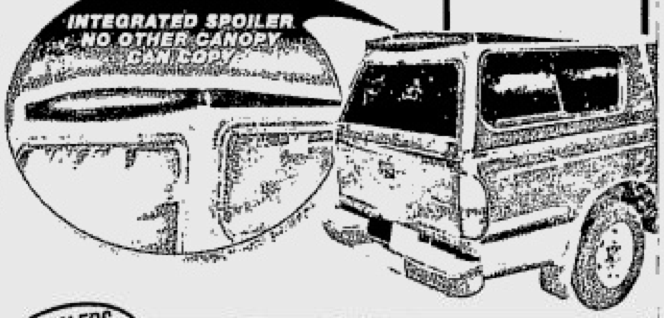
Quarters: 21-24, 54-59, 91-87, 120-116

Second Game

GINEBRA 104—Ellis 26, Caguioa 20, Menk 14, Adducul 13, Limpot 12, Dimaunahan 9, Salvacion 6, Johnson 2, Crisano 2, Tolomia 0.

COCA-COLA 94—McClary 37, Hatfield 21, Carlaso 12, Reavis 7, Abarrientos 7, Wainwright 5, Morano 5, Hawkins 0, Hugnatan 0, Juinio 0.

Quarters: 29-31, 51-51, 83-76, 104-94



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Lhuillier-Cebu cagers foil Shineway-Ozamiz

CEBU CITY—M. Lhuillier Kwarta Padala-Cebu outsteadied arch rival Shineway Compak-Ozamiz City, 91-83, Saturday to launch its title campaign in the 2003 Panasonic-National Basketball League Regional Cup tournament on a bright note at the New Cebu City Coliseum here.

James Laygo and Rey Cantona combined for 14 points to help the Cebuanos erase a 17-21 first-quarter deficit and surge ahead at the turn, 45-37.

The Cebuanos never looked back after that.

The other match between Spring Cooking Oil-San Pablo and Grachiya-Adamson was reset to a later date when the two teams failed to arrive on time due to travel constraints.

Ozamiz was pitted against Spring Cooking Oil-San Pablo and Lhuillier was paired against Grachiya-Adamson yesterday in the first doubleheader of the tourney sponsored by Panasonic, BJ Star Logistics, Molten, Sulpicio Lines and Nature's Spring.

With Edgar Echavez drilling in eight points, reigning Regional Cup titlist Shineway-Ozamiz lorded it over in the opening quarter.

But Echavez picked up his third foul barely two minutes into the second canto, forcing coach Francis Rodriguez to bench him. That started Ozamiz's downfall.

In the fourth quarter, the Cebuanos opened a commanding 17-point lead (86-69) as Laygo fired two triples and Arnold Rodriguez added another.

Laygo led Lhuillier's scoring with 22 points, while Boyet Guerrero topscored for Ozamiz with 20.

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PBA losing its appeal

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

I AM not being unpatriotic, but I don't buy the pitch of PBA Commissioner Noli Eala to support the national team in its campaign in the Asian Games and the ABC (Asian Basketball Confederation), the qualifying tournament for the Olympic Games. The idea is great, but it is not practical.

In the Olympics, Eala should accept that tall players definitely have the advantage over their shorter opponents, which places the Filipinos—who are not meant to be genetically tall—at a great disadvantage. Our only chances in the Games are in boxing, bowling, billiards and chess if ever the last three disciplines are included in the Olympic calendar.

In the Asian Games, the Philippines will find it very difficult to beat the current crop led by powerhouse China, much-improved South Korea, Kazakhstan and emerging Lebanon.

Since 1990 have we beaten China in basketball? In the last Asian Games, the national team, composed of PBA players, lost to China, Korea and Kazakhstan in the medal race.

And in this year's ABC tournament, the Philippines finished a dismal 15th, second to last. It was the country's worst ever in the 43-year-history of the Olympic qualifier.

In my opinion, those embarrassing setbacks are some of the major reasons why the Filipino fans have been slowly shying away from most of the PBA games despite all the media hype and hoopla. The fans want winners, not certified losers.

When Filipino athletes shine in the world sporting arena, the fans rejoice. Don't you notice the celebration after each sensational achievement of a Filipino athlete? The adulation is nationwide like when Onyok Velasco won the silver medal in the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games; or when the fabled Gabriel "Flash" Elorde captured the junior lightweight title on March 16, 1960 by stopping Harold Gomes. They celebrated, too, when Paeng Nepomuceno emerged Bowling World Cup champion and Eugene Torre became Asia's and the Philippines' first chess grandmaster.

Billiards, once associated with gamblers and hustlers, is now respected and widely appreciated because of the extraordinary achievements in world pool by Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante. See the effect of their accomplishments?

Similarly, basketball enjoyed unprecedented following in the 1950s and 1960s when the Philippines was the most dominant country in Asia. It all started in 1954 when the national team, led by Hall of Famers Carlos Loyzaga and Lauro Mumar, landed a magnificent third in the World Basketball Championship in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The Filipinos were perennial champions in the Asian Games and the ABC series in the 1960s before the decline set in.

In the Beijing Asian Games in 1990 when the PBA first assumed the responsibility of representing the Philippines in the Asiad, millions of Filipinos obsessed with winning the title were broken-hearted when the team finished second behind host China. Another PBA team placed fourth in Hiroshima in 1994 while the PBA Centennial Team salvaged third in Bangkok in 1998. In Busan last year, the Philippines dropped to fourth.

I could be wrong, but statistics showed that PBA attendance suffered after each debacle in the Asian Games. This is aggravated by other problems such as mounting complaints against poor officiating, loss of television and radio revenues and ratings, the drug scandal and unpleasant reports linking well-connected insiders to the importation of several Fil-foreign players with dubious documents.

***

CHEERS AND JEERS. I know for a fact that the father-and-son shooting team of Tom Ong and Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla spends valuable time, money and effort in preparing for an international tournament. Tac, in particular, has been training in earnest the last few months in his bid to regain the rapid fire pistol event of this year's SEA Games in Vietnam. "I hope not to disappoint my countrymen," said the 39-year-old Padilla, general manager of Spring Cooking Oil. Then 12 years old, Tac Padila stunned the sporting world when he won the World Junior Shooting Championships in Mexico in 1976... Another Filipino athlete worth watching is champion runner Eduardo "Vertek" Buenavista. A protege of athletics president Go Teng Kok, the 29-year-old Buenavista is entered in three events in the SEAG—the 3,000-meter steeplechase, 5,000m run and the 10,000 meters, where he is favored to win the gold medal. All the best!...

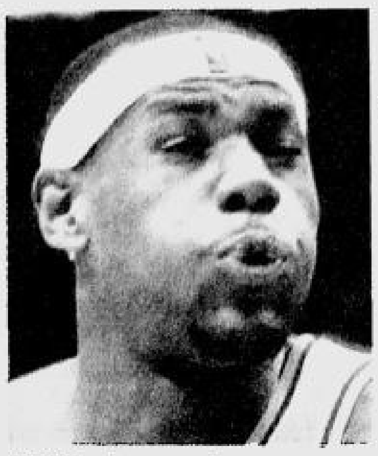
Laurente defense reset due to injury

ORIENTAL-Pacific Boxing Federation superbantam champion Pedrito Laurente of the Johnny Elorde Stable sustained a two-inch cut during sparring last Tuesday, forcing the postponement of his scheduled defense against challenger Jimrex Gaca on Dec. 21.

"*Malaki and putok sa ilalim ng kilay. Mahirap gumaling kaagad* (It was a big cut underneath the eyelid. It won't heal so soon)," said a distraught Elorde in an interview with the INQUIRER.

Promoters Rex "Wakee" Salud and Joe Koizumi are now planning to look for the next highest contender to fight Jaca on Dec. 21 for the interim championship.

The winner of the Jaca interim fight will then face Laurente for the title. *Salven L. Lagumbay*



JAMES makes amends. REUTERS

James tastes first victory with

PRIZED rookie LeBron James finally scored his first win as a professional player ,as the Cleveland Cavaliers tripped the sputtering Washington Wizards, 111-98, at home Saturday.

James was his usual self, scoring 17 points, hauling down eight rebounds and dishing out nine assists, most of them coming in the third quarter, when the Cavs dropped a 14-2 bomb to pull away from the Wizards, who missed two players due to injury.

Ironically, James was only the fourth-best scorer for the Cavs, who started the season with five straight defeats.

Darius Miles and Ricky Davis both poured in 26 points to pace Dallas, with Carlos Boozer hitting 19.

Jarvis Hayes and Gilbert Arenas each had 22 points for the Wizards, whose pre-season preparations were hit by the sacking of Michael Jordan, the Wizards' chief of basketball operations.

James, whose star was somehow dimmed by Carmelo Anthony, the Nuggets' own prized acquisition, when Denver beat Cleveland, 93-89, on Tuesday, averaged an amazing 20 points in his first six games.

But the Cavs' ice-breaker of a win proved to be a redemption of sorts for James. In the game against the Pacers on Friday, the rookie committed seven turnovers and missed a driving layup with five seconds to go as Indiana escaped with 91-90 win in Indianapolis.

Ron Artest's three-point play with 11 seconds left took the shine off James' sparkling 23-point, 11-assist show.

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Jamison lifts Dallas past injury-hit San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO—Antawn Jamison grabbed 20 points, including the final basket of the game with 4.9 seconds left, and nine rebounds to give the Dallas Mavericks an 81-78 win over the San Antonio Spurs Saturday.

The Spurs, again without Tim Duncan and Tony Parker, led 78-77 with 1:29 left but a basket by Steve Nash put the Mavericks ahead for good with just over a minute to play.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 15 points and hauled down 11 rebounds for the Mavericks.

Nash added 15 points after missing one game with a strained shoulder.

Malik Rose dominated the boards with a career-high 22 rebounds and picked up 20 points for the Spurs.

Dallas improved to 4-3 but are only 2-3 on the road. The defending champion Spurs slipped to 3-4 overall.

In Miami, Kevin Garnett notched 25 points and 17 rebounds to help the Minnesota Timberwolves to an 88-79 triumph over the Heat.

Sam Cassell added 23 points as the Timberwolves landed their second straight win.

Eddie Jones scored 21 points and Dwayne Wade 19 for the Heat.

In Milwaukee, 23 points from Tim Thomas carried the Bucks to a 90-87 win over the New York Knicks.

Joe Smith added 10 points and 15 rebounds for Milwaukee while Michael Redd had 22 points.

Allan Houston notched 28 points and Keith Van Horn 20 for the Knicks.

In Houston, Steve Francis scored 31 points to give the Rockets a 96-86 victory over the Orlando Magic.

Yao Ming added 16 points and 11 rebounds while Kelvin Cato collected 10 points and 11 rebounds as the Rockets pocketed their third straight win.

Juwan Howard had 22 points for the Magic, who lost their fifth straight game.

In Salt Lake City, Andrei Kirilenko registered 25 points as the Utah Jazz overcame the Memphis Grizzlies 96-89.

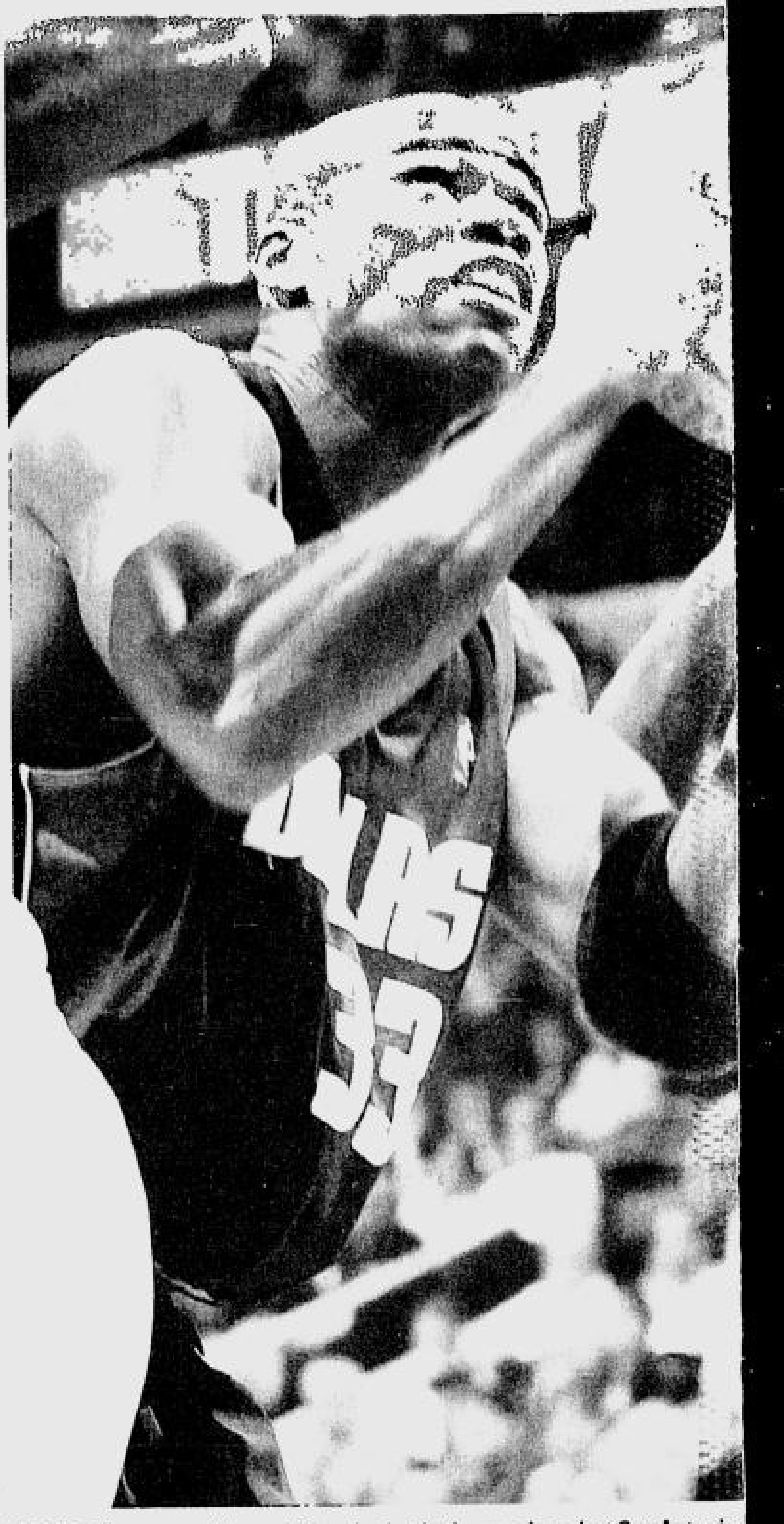
Matt Harpring added 14 points for the Jazz while DeShawn Stevenson had 13.

James Posey picked up 17 points to top the Grizzlies, who lost their third straight game.

In Portland, Zach Randolph grabbed 29 points and nine rebounds to inspire the Trail Blazers to a 90-83 win over the Atlanta Hawks.

Jeff McInnis added 21 points and nine assists for the Trail Blazers, who improved to 3-3.

Shareef Abdur-Rahim had 18 points for Atlanta, which is 1-5 this season and winless on the road. *Reuters*



JAMISON squeezes his way in for a basket in the match against San Antonio.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando (third from left) with organizers and guests during the awards rites of the Yakult race. From left, Nike's Ottie Villarama, Yakult Phils. assistant manager for sales and planning Michael Ong and race organizer Rudy Biscocho.

RUNAWAY VICTORY

Annika secures player

SOTSU, Japan—Annika Sorenstam secured her sixth LPGA Tour player of the year award Sunday with a record-breaking victory at the Mizuno Classic.

Sorenstam won this event for the third straight year after closing with a 6-under-par 66 on the Seta Golf Course's North course to break the LPGA Tour record for a 54-hole event with a 24-under 192 total.

"I came here to set many more records," said Sorenstam. "This week was important for me because Se Ri (Pak) is playing next week and I'm not."

Sorenstam shared the previous record of 21-under 195 with Wendy Ward.

Sorenstam carded six birdies, including two on the par-5 closing holes, for her third straight bogey-free round and a nine-stroke victory over compatriot Sophie Gustafson and South Koreans Grace Park and Se Ri Pak.

"The Mizuno Classic has been good to me," added Sorenstam. "This is the first

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Tacadino, Madamba rule Yakult 10-Miler

RODOLFO Tacadino and Hazel Madamba ruled in convincing fashion the 15th annual Yakult 10 Miler yesterday at the Cultural Center of the Philippine Complex ground in Pasay City.

The Tuguegarao-based Tacadino of the Philippine Army finished the 10-mile (16 km) run in 54 minutes and 48 seconds, a good one minute and 28 seconds faster than runner-up Rio dela Cruz of Marikina City.

"We ran together until Dela Cruz seemed to tire in the flyover," said the 39-year-old Tacadino, who also placed fourth in the Milo Marathon finals last month.

Veteran marathoner Reynaldo delos Reyes caught up with the 21-year-old Dela Cruz in the final mile but lost in a sprint battle for second place. The 26-year-old Delos Reyes finished third, seven seconds behind Dela Cruz.

Madamba, coming from a two-month layoff, controlled the race from the start, winning in 1:10:48. A native of Butuan City, she finished second here last year behind Christabel Martes, who did not compete yesterday.

The victory surprised the 27-year-old Madamba, who suffered first and third degree burns after forcing open a steaming pressure cooker two months ago. This same injury forced her out of the Milo Marathon finals last month.

Tacadino and Madamba pocketed the top purse of P7,000 each courtesy of Yakult, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. The event is also held in partnership with Nike.

Placing second to Madamba was the up-and-coming Sealand Agana who, at 14, won the Laguna 42-k Marathon last August and the 10-k Avia Run last month. She beat by 42 seconds veteran runner Liza Delfin.

Still, Delfin was the proudest mother yesterday after her eldest son Richard ruled the boys' 9-under 3-K kiddies run at 13:31. He edged by a hairline second placer Michael Oquendo (13:32) and third placer Darren Alvarez.

The girls' 9-under race went to Angela Pleyto (16:06) while the 10-13 age group was dominated by Mark Reyes (12:06) and Jinky Calusa (13:49).

Mangubat-Gabi on NBN tonight

WORLD Boxing Council International flyweight king Randy Mangubat's fourth title defense against Prince Gabi will be aired from tonight from 6 p.m. over NBN.

The bullstrong 27-year-old Mangubat, a veteran of 60 fights, easily passed Saturday's official weigh-in while Kidapawan's Gabi had to shed extra poundage to make the 112-lb limit.

The Mangubat-Gabi clash last night was the main event of the mammoth San Miguel Corp.-backed "Engkwentro" card in Kidapawan City, the biggest boxing event in Mindanao this year.

Mangubat is raring to redeem himself after failing to wrest the regular WBC title from Thailand's Pongsaklek Wongjongkam last June.

The stocky Mangubat annexed the WBC International crown with an impressive first-round knockout of Korean Jong Kwan-Kim three years ago.

Gabi, a former amateur standout, boasts of a 23-2-1 win-draw-loss record with 19 KOs. A stylish counter-puncher with mean body-punching skills, Gabi is widely regarded as Mindanao's best prospect for a world crown.

Salven L. Lagumbay

CJ SUAREZ shows the form that won him the World C

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Cavs

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rd Baron Davis scored 35
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while PJ Brown picked up 17
and 11 rebounds.

With a report from Reuters

AFP

Campbell leapfrogs favorites, fires sparkling 10-under 61

HOUSTON—Chad Campbell finished his round in the record books Saturday with a 10-under-par 61 that gave him a one-stroke lead in the Tour Championship.

Campbell was five shots out of the lead to start the third round and only knew he needed to make a bunch of birdies for a chance to end the year with his first PGA Tour victory.

He played his final 10 holes in 8 under par and flirted with a 59 until missing a 12-foot birdie putt on the 17th.

"I never knew exactly how many under I was," Campbell said. "I kept trying to hit good golf shots and keep making birdies. And I knew I had a lot of ground to make up at the start of the day. That was the outlook I was taking."

Campbell broke the Champions Golf Club and the tournament record, previously held by Jim Furyk in the third round of the 2001 Tour Championship.

He was at 13-under 200, and had a one-stroke lead over Charles Howell III.

Howell shot a 67, his seventh consecutive round in the 60s at the Tour Championship, and for the second year in a row found out it wasn't enough.

"I didn't think if I shot 67 today I'd be one stroke back," Howell said.

A year ago at East Lake, Howell shot all four rounds in the 60s, but Vijay Singh surged past him on Saturday and hung on for a two-stroke victory.

This time it was Campbell and his awesome display of shotmaking and putting.

CAMPBELL blasts out of a bunker on the 14th hole. REUTERS

"We kept hearing cheers," said Steve Flesch, playing in the group behind Campbell. "Once we knew he was 8 or 9 under, it was like, 'No way he made it from there!'"

The putt that should have told Campbell it was going to be his day came at the par-3 12th, where he left his tee shot some 75 feet short of the cup. The ball hit the back of the hole, hopped into the air and dropped in for birdie.

He also holed a 15-footer for eagle on No. 9 to start his amazing run, chipped in for birdie on No. 10 and did little else wrong on another cool, overcast day.

The same couldn't be said for Tiger Woods.

His four-year reign atop the PGA Tour money list essentially came to an end Saturday when Woods missed four putts inside 10 feet—one of them for eagle—and finished with an even-par 71 to wind up 11 shots out of the lead.

Woods needed a victory this week to overcome Singh on the money list.

Singh got to within four shots of the lead, but wound up with a 67 and was in ninth place, eight strokes behind.

"I think I've secured it," Singh said of his first money title. "That wasn't my concern coming over here. I wanted to play well in this tournament and I'm playing well. I'm just not scoring as good as I want.

"I'm a little disappointed that I only shot 4 under, and a little disappointed that Chad is running away with it."

Not so fast.

This is only the second time Campbell has taken a lead into the final round. He led by three at the Southern Farm Bureau Classic two years ago, and finished second when Cameron Beckman birdied three of the last five holes.

And there are plenty of guys still in the mix.

Howell finished with two birdies on his final four holes, including a 55-foot birdie putt from just off the green on the 17th. Other than a record-breaking round from Campbell, he still would be in control of the tournament.

"Between the two of us, we've amassed a total of one win," Howell said of his final pairing Sunday with Campbell. *AP*

Singh all but clinches PGA Tour money title

HOUSTON, Texas—Vijay Singh moved ahead of world number one Tiger Woods on Saturday in the third round of the Tour Championship, all but guaranteeing the Fijian the PGA Tour money title for 2003.

In the two-way fight for the tour money title, Singh hit a four-under-par 67 in the third round to finish on five-under 208, three shots ahead of Woods who managed only an even-par 71.

The only way in which Woods could have claimed his fifth straight money title was to have won this event with Singh finishing fourth or worse, but Woods now trails Campbell by 11 shots with 18 holes remaining.

"If I had made my normal amount of putts I would have a chance tomorrow," Woods said. "But obviously I'm pretty far back now." Woods immediately lost ground with a bogey on the first hole. From that point he struggled to stay even par, with two birdies and one more bogey as he carded his third straight round in the 70s.

With only one round to go, Singh looks to be assured of topping the money list for the first time in his 11-year career.

"I'm in great position unless something odd happens," Singh said of the money title race. "I think I've secured it." *AP*

SINGH: Three shots in front of Tiger. REUTERS

# of the year crown

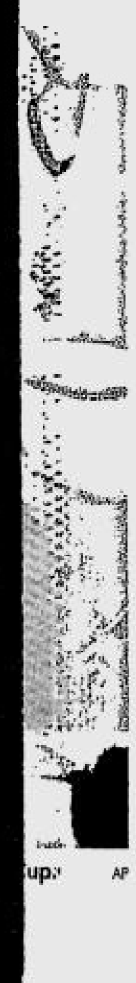
I've had no bogeys in a 54-hole
and the first time with no 3-putts
as very consistent and solid."
th the victory, the Swede became
rst player in LPGA Tour history with
consecutive victories in more than
vent. She also won the Michelob
Classic from 1997 to 1999, and will
hances to match that feat next year
Kellogg-Keebler Classic and Safe-
lassic.
enstam pocketed the tournament's

US$169,000 winner's prize, bringing her total earnings for this season to US$1,914,006.

With two events remaining, Sorenstam also clinched LPGA player of the year honors with her sixth victory of the season.

Sorenstam won this tournament last year for the 10th of her 11 2002 LPGA Tour titles, beating Park by two strokes. She also won in 2001 at Musashigaoka. *AP*

SORENSTAM kisses her trophy. AP


up: AP

Suarez-King tandem Pasig Open doubles pacesetters

WORLD Cup champion CJ Suarez and veteran Chester King dominated the doubles event to highlight an expected strong show by the national players at the start of the 23rd Pasig Bowling Association Open Tenpin Bowling Championships at the Green Valley Country Club in Pasig City recently.

Suarez and King, the reigning Masters champion in this tournament sponsored by Sen. Robert Barbers, Rep. Chuck Mathay III and Boysen Paints, teamed up for 1281 that pushed PBAP-Bowlmart to an early big lead in men's Class O.

Liza Clutario and Liza del Rosario, members of the RP team that won the trios gold in the recent world championships in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, also did PBAP-Bowlmart proud by showing the way in the ladies division with their 1119 then joined forces with Elaine Florencio to secure for Bowlmart the Class O team lead with their 1827.

"As expected, the RP Team members are flexing their muscles early. But we still have a long way to go and anything can happen because we now have some of the best Filipino bowlers here," said Dr. Elmer Punzalan, PBA president and director and tournament committee chair of the Philippine Bowling Congress.

Sammy Sy and Benny Dytoc found themselves in second spot behind Suarez and King in the doubles, but, along with Ramon Ong, propelled Chem Vision to the Class O team lead with 1749 against the 1694 of King, Suarez and Diego Candano.

The host club also had its share of the limelight as John Tiongson and Boy Tagalag rolled 1275 to lead Class A in men's doubles; Jeff Mangubat, Vlad Tuazon and Willie Dacanay had 1786 in men's Class A team; and Nelia Santos Jhie Rocabo and Susan San Diego rolled 1680 in Class B ladies' team.

Other early pacesetters were Edna Beltran and Eve Lombos of PWBA with 1112 in Class A ladies' doubles; Dennis Ramirez and Jose Catalasan of Sletba with 1205 in Class B men's doubles; Janneth Tan, Nelia Santos and Irene Benitez with 1594 in Class ladies' team; and QCBA's Ram Reyes, Jasper Guella and Rhedd Viray with 1790 in Class B men's team event.

The PBC tags this event as part of RP bowling's celebration of a successful year while giving up-and-coming and promising local bowlers an opportunity to be considered in the national training pool for 2004.

Prizes galore in Founders Invitational

MORE than a million pesos in raffle prizes will be up for grabs by a record roster at the seventh edition of the Founders Golf Invitational on Nov. 20-22 at the Palmer and Player courses of The Orchard Golf and Country Club in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

The prize package made up of appliance showcases and golf equipment is apart from the hole-in-one prizes that include a Ford Everest, a Club Car, a Taylor Made golf set and a split-type Carrier airconditioning unit.

Major sponsors are Globe, Ford Alabang and Sta. Lucia Realty Dev't. Inc.. Fedex, Sta. Elena Properties, The Turf Co., Kubota Agro Industrial Machinery Phils. and Concepcion-Carrier Airconditioning Co. are special sponsors.

Hole sponsors are The Bellevue Manila, Cebu Pacific, China Airlines, Chinatrust Bank, Clark Parnham, Design Packaging Industries, Inc., Dynamic Sports, Equitable Card Center, Exotic Gardens, Gainer's Marketing, Give a Life Foundation, Golf Library, Industrial Waste Systems, Inc., Jomon Carpets, Kolin Phils. International, Inc., RFM, Rudy Project Phils., Sanitary Care Products Asia, Schering-Plough Corporation and Trans Global Consolidators, Inc.

Participants will also be treated to nightly cocktails from the first day of the tournament until the awards ceremony on Saturday, Nov. 22.

A record field of 300 teams or 600 members and guests are vying for beautiful trophies for overall champion as well as winners of four classes arranged according to handicap.

Teams will have choice tee-offs of Thursday-Friday, Friday-Saturday and Thursday-Saturday either on the 6:15 a.m. shotgun or the afternoon batch at 12 noon.

There will be separate areas for bag drops, registration, cart staging and parking for the Palmer and Player courses so it is best that participants call The Orchard at 843-8344 to confirm their schedule as well as other tournament details.

PAGULAYAN shoots in a recent match with Germany's Thorsten Hohmann.

Pagulayan vows to hit it big for RP next year

By Anthony Suntay

ALEX Pagulayan stormed into our sports scene after finishing second in this year's World Pool Championship in Cardiff, Wales. "The Lion," as he is fondly called, tore through the opposition and only the brilliance of German Thorsten Hohmann stopped him from going all the way. Representing the Philippines for the very first time during the LF Flatron On Cue 2: Battle of Champions was truly an honor for him. In fact, the 25-year-old Canadian-based Pagulayan is currently working on securing dual citizenship to be able to represent the country in future competitions.

INQUIRER: How did you start out in the sport?

ALEX: My father used to take me to the pool halls betting with people there. He played about 20 times and only won once, *hindi pa siya nabayaran* (he was not paid for his win). I really love sports, I used to be into all sorts of sports, even chess. I decided to try billiards because, from what I saw, you can make a lot of money. I told my father to give me three years and I will challenge everyone who beat him in pool. When I was here in the country, I played billiards to survive and to support my habit, *hindi ko na babanggitin kung ano 'yon* (I won't mention it)! I wasn't serious then.

INQUIRER: Then what happened?

ALEX: I got into trouble a few times here and my mom decided that I leave for Canada to study there. At first, I refused. The second time, I was literally beaten by my brother, it was then that I agreed. *Masakit* (It hurts)! Actually, it was the best thing that happened to me.

INQUIRER: So, what did you first do in Canada?

ALEX: I studied for about five months but it was difficult to adjust to a new lifestyle, from being a partygoer transformed into some sort of a nerd… from being wild into someone who's quiet. My mom used to give me $10 for bus fare every week but a pack of cigarettes cost $2.75 and I used to smoke three packs a week. You know what? I would walk 3 kilometers a day, so I said to myself this had to stop. I then found a billiards place inside a mall. The players there, all students, play for $1-2 a game. Eventually, I would make $40 a day! Then I met a Filipino who took me to a bigger arena, where I would hustle people for $100-150. After awhile, I decided to stop all that and take billiards seriously and see how far I could go in this sport.

INQUIRER: Did the runner-up finish at the World Championships help your career?

ALEX: Not really! Actually, it ruined me a bit because I have been coming in second in a lot of tournaments. I feel the biggest tournament where I finished second was at the U.S. Open. I lost my first match and I had to win 12 straight to win the event. The matches were all close! The score on five of them was 11-10! I really want to get the US Open title!

Leading up to the World Championships, I was playing really well, winning most of the tournaments I entered. After getting second at Cardiff, it was all downhill from there! I started drinking… I sort of lost my confidence… I was depressed. After one tournament I finished second again, I went outside and broke my cue stick! '*Malas kang taco ka, second ka na naman* (You're a worthless cue, you're second again),' I said.

INQUIRER: So would you now say that you have turned the corner? What are your plans?

ALEX: My biggest problem is my concentration and desire, talent-wise, I am there. I'm looking at next year because I am not a disciplined pool player. The players I go against are so focused but I am young and I want to do a lot of things. Next year, my target is to go straight. I need that desire to be straight to reach my goal.

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TARVER DISAPPOINTED

Jones wins by majority decision

LAS VEGAS—Roy Jones Jr. nearly paid the price for trying to take care of some unfinished business.

Jones, looking nothing like the fighter who dominated the light heavyweight division for years, had as much as he could handle Saturday night from Antonio Tarver before winning a majority decision to regain the 175-pound title.

Both Jones and the decision were loudly booed after a fight in which Tarver was the aggressor and Jones waited until the late rounds to throw more than one punch at a time.

Bigger punches

Jones won back the title he vacated to move up and win the WBA heavyweight title from John Ruiz in March, but Tarver gave him as much trouble as any fighter in his 14-year pro career.

Tarver seemed to land the bigger punches and more of them, marking the left side of Jones' face and taking the fight to him. But Jones landed well to the body and did enough to win on two of the three ringside cards.

Judge Glen Hamada had Jones winning 117-111, judge Dave Harris had it 116-112 and Jerry Roth had it 114-114. The Associated Press had it even 114-114.

"I beat the man tonight, that makes me the man," Tarver said. "I won the fight hands down. His face tells the story."

In a fight full of trash talking and taunting, Jones seemed in danger of his first real loss as the rounds went on. Jones appeared tired early, and said having to lose weight to come down from heavyweight took its toll.

"I was very tired because of the weight," Jones said. "It was a tough fight because of the weight. I had to lose 25 lb, and it was a tough 25 lb to lose."

The 34-year-old Jones, who had to drop from 193 in his last fight with John Ruiz to the 175-lb limit, had vowed to make Tarver pay for that, as well as some ill-advised comments he made about Jones trying to duck him.

The fight was more of a chess match early, with both fighters trying to figure the other out and neither doing much to try and score punches. The action was so slow in the first round that the crowd booed as both fighters crouched and looked at each other.

But it picked up as the rounds went on, building to a frenzied finish as Jones came on strong in the final two rounds.

"I'm disappointed. I gave better than a great effort tonight," Tarver said. "I am the new people's champion."

Jones had said the fight would be his last at light heavyweight, and that he planned to end his career with a heavyweight fight against Mike Tyson sometime next year. His performance about Tarver may have said more about his age—34—and the fact he weighed 193 in his last fight than the state of his legendary skills.

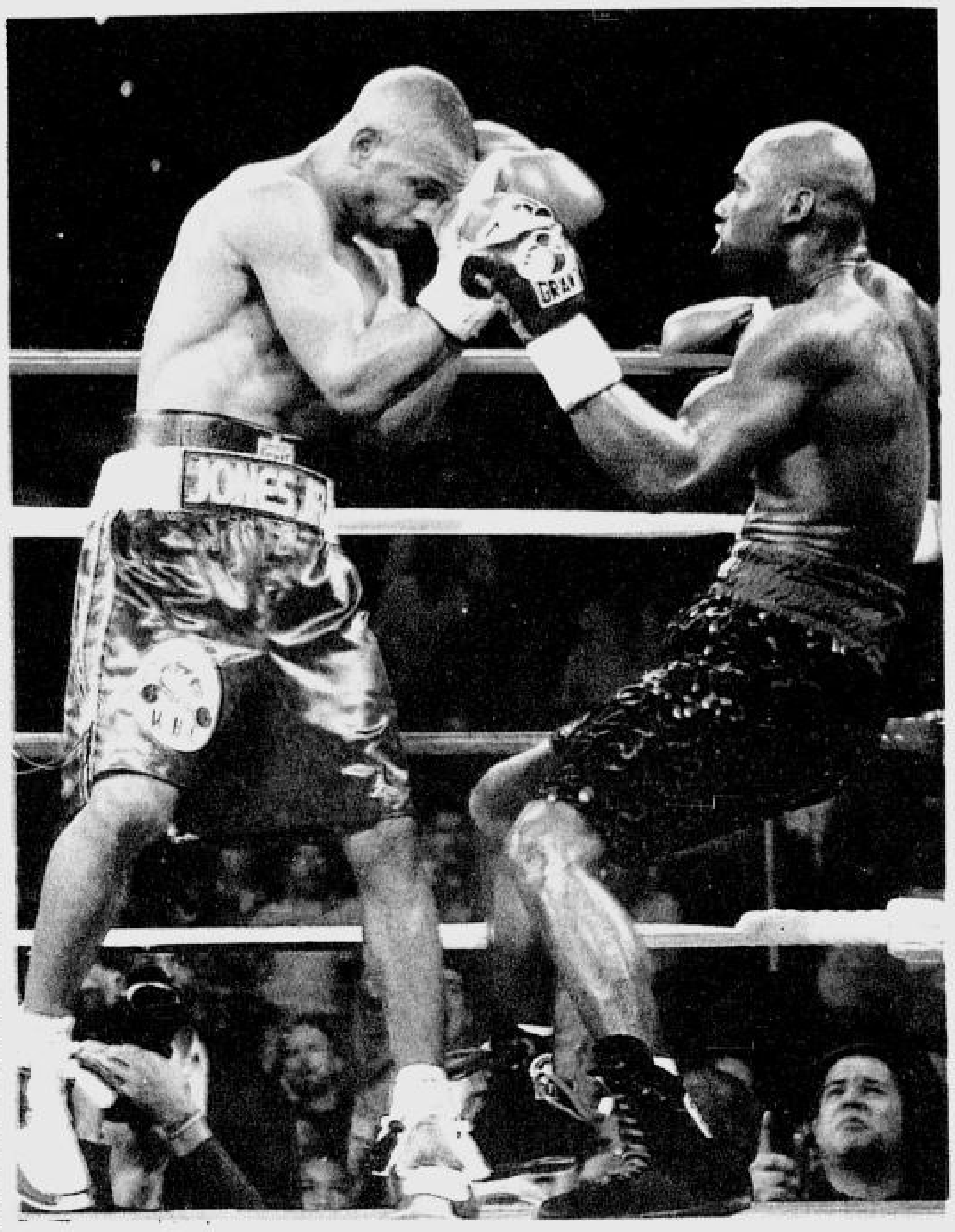
Mega-dollar fight

"One mega-dollar heavyweight fight with Tyson and then I'm done," Jones said.

Still, Jones stood on the ring ropes with his hands aloft in a victory he said was well deserved.

"I was fighting the first two minutes of every round and he was trying to win the last 30 seconds of the round. That was his strategy," Jones said. "But you can't win a fight winning only 30 seconds of a round."

Jones (49-1, 38 knockouts) was an 8-1 favorite against Tarver in a rematch of an amateur fight the two fought as 13-year-olds in the Sunshine State Games in Florida. Jones won that fight by decision, and he made it 2-0 with a win that meant a lot more Saturday. *AP*


TARVER (right) buckles at the knees after a flurry of punches from Jones in the 11th round. AP

Wright still IBF champion

LAS VEGAS—Winky Wright managed to please the crowd and retain his IBF 154-pound title at the same time, scoring a unanimous decision over a game but outmatched Angel Hernandez.

Wright, seeking some recognition in a division that includes the likes of Oscar De La Hoya, Shane Mosley and Fernando Vargas, stood and punched with Hernandez for much of the fight Saturday night on his way to a lopsided decision win.

He was never able to put Hernandez down, but Wright was more than satisfied anyway.

"I didn't box. I wanted to give the fans what they wanted to see so I slugged with him," Wright said.

Wright has had trouble getting big fights because he's a southpaw who tends to fight technical fights. But he abandoned that style against Hernandez, and the two went after each other much of the way.

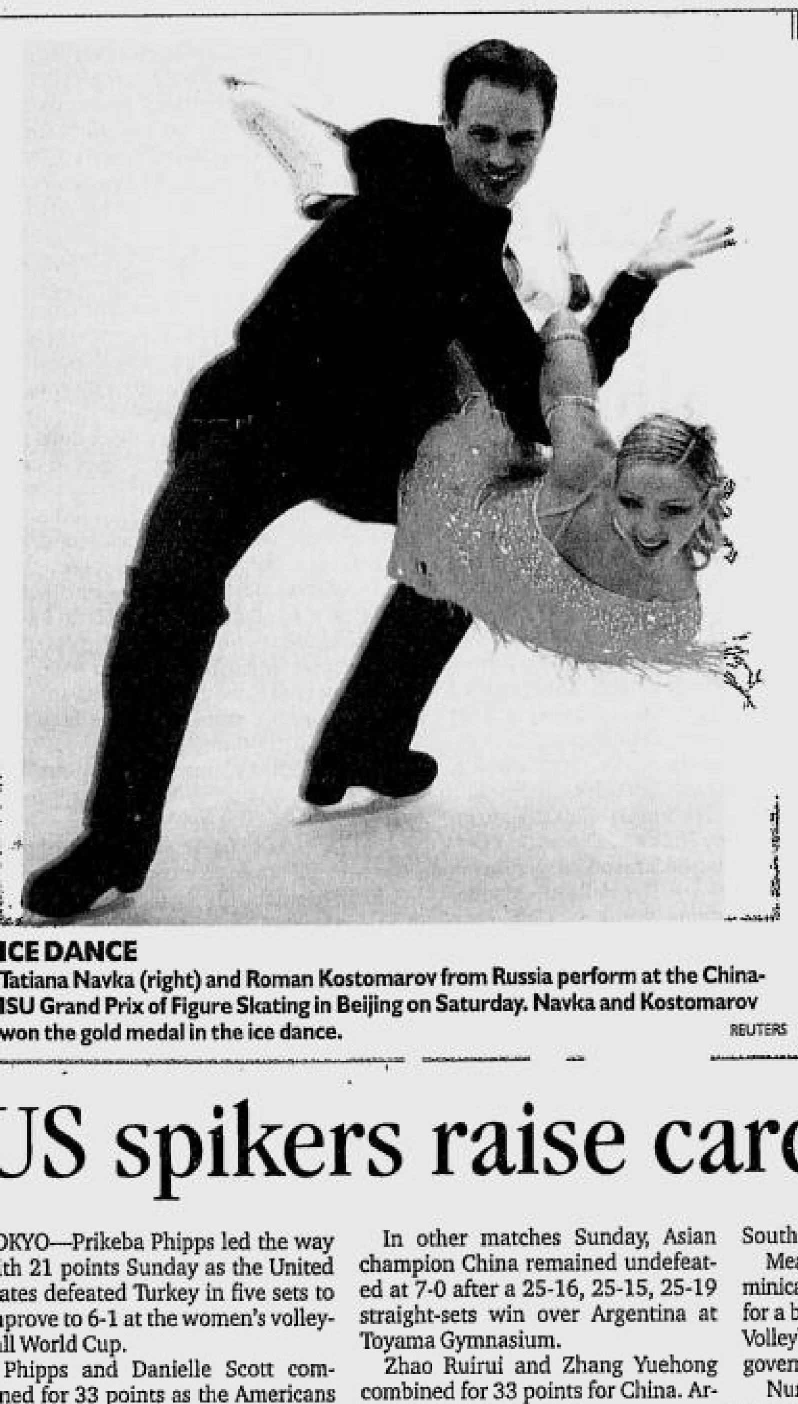
Wright won 119-109 on one scorecard, 118-110 on a second and 117-111 on the third.

The fight topped the undercard of the Roy Jones Jr.-Antonio Tarver light heavyweight title fight at the Mandalay Bay hotel-casino.

Hernandez, the No. 7-ranked IBF contender, kept after the taller Wright the entire fight, but many of his punches were picked off and he took the worst of most exchanges.

"I thought the fight was closer than the judges had it," Hernandez said. "I thought I did good. I made some mistakes and I paid for them." *AP*

Tennessee upsets Miami


ICE DANCE
Tatiana Navka (right) and Roman Kostomarov from Russia perform at the China-ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating in Beijing on Saturday. Navka and Kostomarov won the gold medal in the ice dance. REUTERS

MIAMI—Tennessee knocked Miami out of the national championship picture Saturday for the first time in four years.

Derrick Tinsley scored on fourth down and the No. 18 Volunteers upset the sixth-ranked Hurricanes, 10-6, ending the nation's longest home-winning streak at 26 games.

The Hurricanes failed to score a touchdown at home for the first time since 1984. It also was the first time since a 47-0 drubbing at Florida State in 1997 that Miami (7-2) failed to scored a touchdown in any game. And they looked bad doing it.

"It was probably the prettiest, ugliest win I've ever had," said Tennessee coach Phillip Fulmer, who posed for pictures with his family in the Orange Bowl after the game.

Brock Berlin threw two interceptions and fumbled once—and probably lost his starting job for the rest of the season.

In Norman, Oklahoma, Jason White tied a school record with five touchdown passes and Oklahoma's defense didn't allow a touchdown for a second straight week as it blasted Texas A&M, 77-0. *AP*

Canada gains in Games qualifying

PANAMA CITY, Panama—Justin Morneau hit two home runs Saturday as Canada survived a five-run fifth inning to beat Colombia, 14-6, and advance to the Olympic baseball qualifying semifinals.

The Canadians took a 7-1 lead through three innings as Kevin Nicholson and Jeremy Ware doubled off Rafael Rojano to help give Canada three runs in the second.

Morneau and Todd Betts added hits in the four-run third.

Colombia had taken an early lead when Adolfo Gomez scored on a Juan Llamas grounder that was bobbled by Nicholson. The South Americans then closed the gap to one run by tagging Canadian starter Mike Meyers in the fifth.

Alvaro Zambrano opened with a hit and outfielder Carlos Ortega doubled. Guaride Puello drove both home.

Edinson de Avila then drove in Puello, and Llamas doubled to bring de Avila home.

Meyers was relieved in the sixth by Chris Begg, and the Canadian batters once again opened up a lead when Morneau homered with Stubby Clapp and Pierre LaForest on base.

In the seventh, Ryan Radmanovich homered for Canada, while Morneau and Adam Stern added homers in the eighth, driving in three. *AP*

ONCASTER
RACECOURSE
1776
OME OF THE ST. LEGER
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EDDERY is carried by fellow jockeys after his retirement. AP

US spikers raise card to 6-1

TOKYO—Prikeba Phipps led the way with 21 points Sunday as the United States defeated Turkey in five sets to improve to 6-1 at the women's volleyball World Cup.

Phipps and Danielle Scott combined for 33 points as the Americans bounced back from dropping the opening set at Hokkaido Sports Center on their way to a 24-26, 25-22, 26-24, 22-25, 15-10 win over a determined Turkish side.

"We knew this would be a tough match," said Scott. "We have to play our best each match in order to win and today was no different."

In other matches Sunday, Asian champion China remained undefeated at 7-0 after a 25-16, 25-15, 25-19 straight-sets win over Argentina at Toyama Gymnasium.

Zhao Ruirui and Zhang Yuehong combined for 33 points for China. Argentina dropped to 1-6.

Italy defeated Poland in straight sets and improved to 6-1 courtesy of 18 points by Nadia Centoni while Olympic champion Cuba breezed past Egypt in straight sets. Cuba improved to 4-3.

Brazil defeated South Korea, 25-18, 25-21, 26-24, to improve to 6-1. South Korea lost their fifth match.

Meanwhile, a player from the Dominican Republic has tested positive for a banned substance at the women's Volleyball World Cup, the sport's world governing body FIVB said Sunday.

Nurys Arias Done was tested after the Dominican Republic played China on Nov. 3 and Brazil on Nov. 5. A sample A result showed the presence of the performance-enhancing substance methandienone.

The Dominican Republic delegation and the player acknowledged the validity of the sample A result and will not request analysis of sample B. *AP*

Racing great Eddery retires

LONDON—Pat Eddery, 11-time champion jockey, rode for the last time in Britain on Saturday, bringing down the curtain on an illustrious career spanning five decades.

Although his five mounts at Doncaster failed to add to his total of 4,632 winner, the 51-year-old Irishman received a massive and emotional ovation.

His last ride was on a horse called Gamut, the hot 1-2 favorite to give Eddery the perfect farewell.

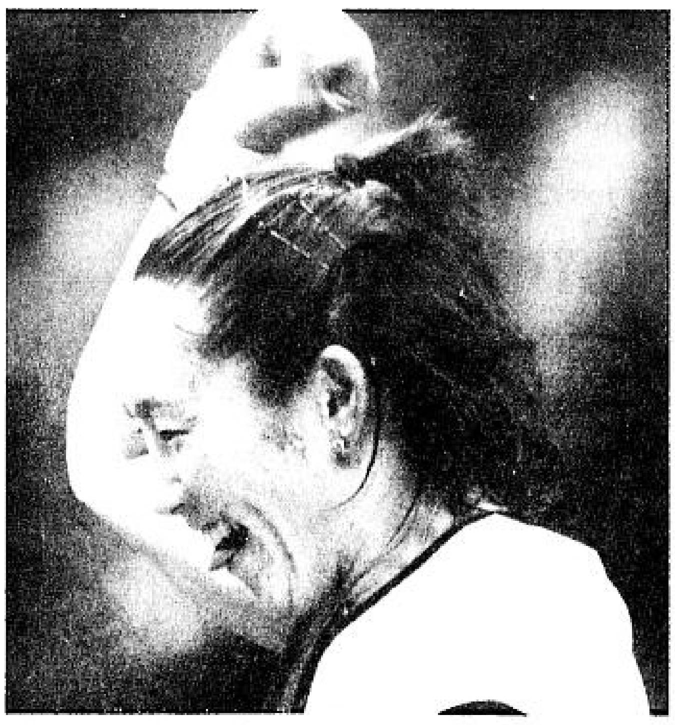
But the four-year-old could finish only third of the seven runners behind 8-1 winner Scott's View.

Eddery had his first career winner in a race at Epsom in 1969 and ends up the second most successful jockey in the history of British racing.

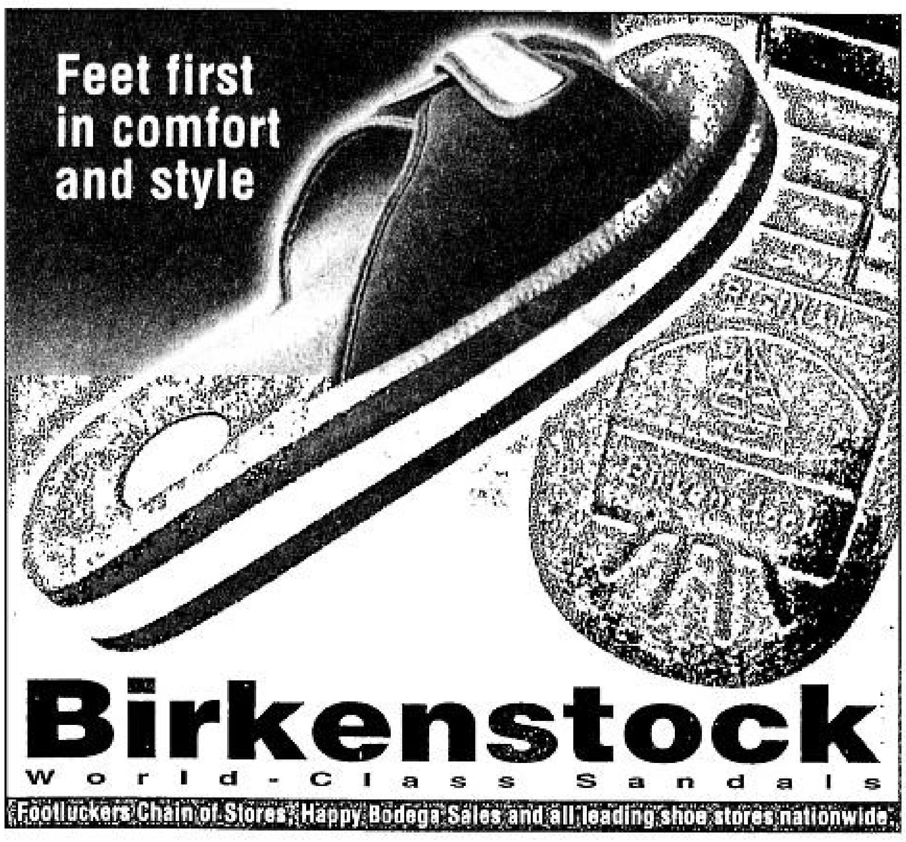
Only the late Gordon Richards, who rode 4,870 winners, has a better record and Eddery finishes well clear of third-placed Lester Piggott (4,493).

Highlights over the years include three Epsom Derby winners (Grundy in 1975, Golden Fleece in 1982 and Quest for Fame in 1990). Abroad he won the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe four times and rode two Breeders' Cup winners. *Reuters*

DEMENTIEVA serves against Rubin. AP



SUGIYAMA celebrates win. AP



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Sugiyama surprises Hardenne

Capriati gains semis

LOS ANGELES—Jennifer Capriati defeated Anastasia Myskina 7-5, 5-7, 6-4 to claim the last semifinal spot in the WTA Championships.

Justine Henin-Hardenne of Belgium, who will end the year No. 1 in the WTA Tour rankings, was upset 6-2, 6-4 by Ai Sugiyama of Japan in a match that had no impact on the round-robin standings.

Capriati completed play with a 2-1 record in the Black group after letting most of a 5-1 third-set lead evaporate. She closed out the victory on her fourth match point when Myskina netted a forehand service return.

"The more I can pull those matches out, I think the more confidence I'll get," said Capriati, who won one tournament this year. "I still don't have any expectations because, really, the way I've been feeling, I can't expect that much."

The hip injury that made it difficult for Capriati to run Friday was less bothersome.

"It felt a little bit better, definitely could move a little better," the American said. "I wasn't 100 percent, but it was all or nothing today. I had a difficult time pushing off, but I tried to come to the net a lot more and make the points a little shorter."

Henin-Hardenne had the same 2-1 record as Capriati in the Black group. She pulled a forehand wide on Sugiyama's second match point to lose.

"I need some rest. I was feeling a little bit tired," said Henin-Hardenne, who was coming off two consecutive late-night matches and has been sick this week. "I didn't serve well. It was hard for me to fight and I wasn't focused."

Amelie Mauresmo of France didn't have to lift her racket Saturday to advance. *AP*

Alta Vista in Sta. Lucia golf sweep

CEBU—True to its promise, Alta Vista scored an impressive sweep of all three divisions in the team competition and surged ahead in the overall race of the 2003 Sta. Lucia Tour which ended here Friday.

Alta Vista turned back the strong challenge of a recharged Eagle Ridge contingent and first-leg champion Rancho Palos Verdes to pull off the romp right in the backyard of the Cebuanos.

With the sweep, Alta Vista grabbed a nine-point lead over Palos Verdes going into the final leg next month of the nationwide series featuring golf clubs operated by Sta. Lucia Realty Development Corp.

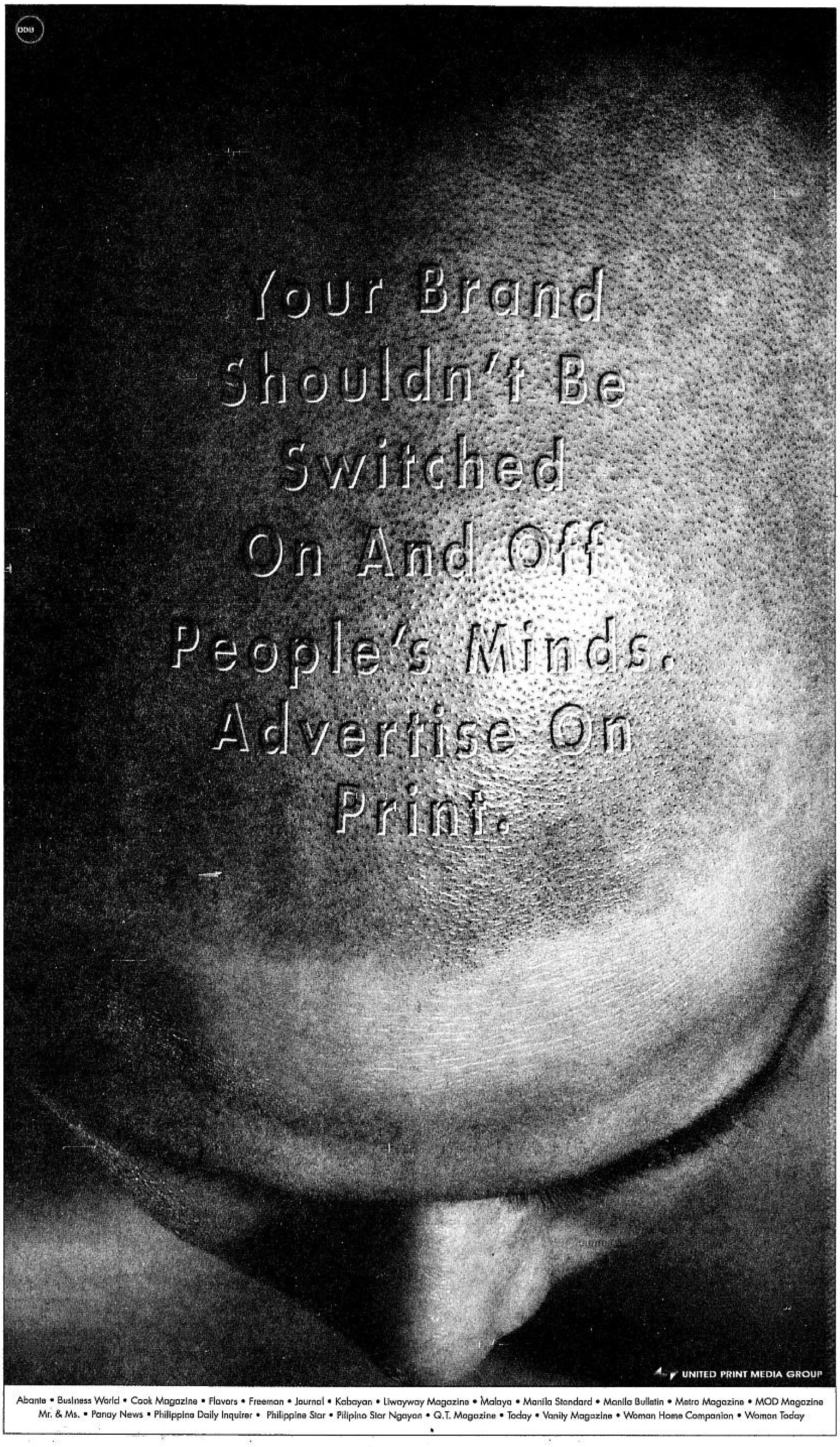
Alta Vista is now with 69 points, ahead of Palos Verdes (60) and Eagle Ridge (57). Royale Tagaytay (38) and Orchard (34) are already too far behind to contend for the overall plum.

Alta Vista and Palos Verdes split the individual titles in the tourney co-sponsored by Petron, Unirock, Readycon, Gainers Marketing, Kubota, Kodak, Titleist, Footjoy, Omega and Pagcor with Marco Polo (Davao), Marriot (Cebu) and Dusit Hotel Nikko (Manila) as partner hotels.

Samsung, Yamaha Golf Cars, Skygo Motorycle were hole-in-one sponsors with Cebu Pacific as official carrier.

Emir Abutazil won the Class A crown and Pete Aznar ruled Class B for Alta Vista while Robert Galicia (Class C) and Ikeda Osamu (Class D) topped their divisions for Palos Verdes.

Abutazil, scoring 52-50, joined hands with Alta Vista 2 teammates George Hong, Anton Florendo and Ramon Sebastian for 281, beating first-leg winner Eagle Ridge by eight in Group I.



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SPORTS

San Lazaro hosts 6-day racing

ANOTHER weeklong program of well-balanced races starts tomorrow at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

The program serves as a prelude to the much-awaited staging of two featured classic races at the end of the year and the upcoming JRA Cup and PSA Cup races on Nov. 30.

"We would like to invite all racing fans to join us for another week of exciting thoroughbred racing action," said MJCI vice president for corporate management Henri S. Kahn.

Among the other highlight events scheduled to take place at the SLLP within the coming weeks include the prestigious PCSO Presidential Gold Cup Race on Dec. 14 and the yearend Philracom Open Classic on Dec. 28.

Meanwhile, MJCI continues its regular midweek racing schedule with an 8-race night racing program starting tomorrow at 6 p.m.

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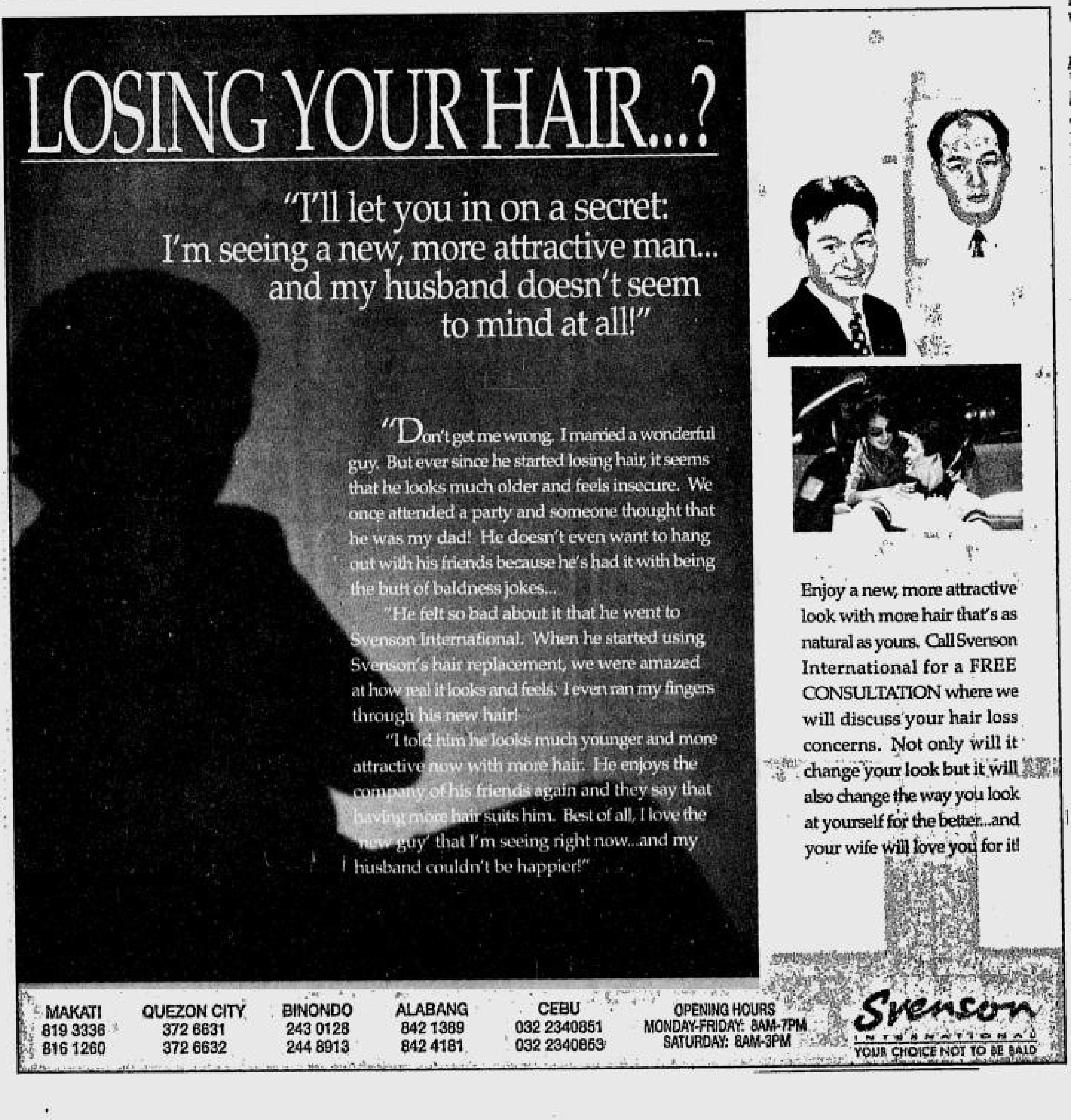

LOSING YOUR HAIR...?

"I'll let you in on a secret: I'm seeing a new, more attractive man... and my husband doesn't seem to mind at all!"

"Don't get me wrong. I married a wonderful guy. But ever since he started losing hair, it seems that he looks much older and feels insecure. We once attended a party and someone thought that he was my dad! He doesn't even want to hang out with his friends because he's had it with being the butt of baldness jokes...

"He felt so bad about it that he went to Svenson International. When he started using Svenson's hair replacement, we were amazed at how real it looks and feels. I even ran my fingers through his new hair!

"I told him he looks much younger and more attractive now with more hair. He enjoys the company of his friends again and they say that having more hair suits him. Best of all, I love the 'new guy' that I'm seeing right now...and my husband couldn't be happier!"

Enjoy a new, more attractive look with more hair that's as natural as yours. Call Svenson International for a FREE CONSULTATION where we will discuss your hair loss concerns. Not only will it change your look but it will also change the way you look at yourself for the better...and your wife will love you for it!

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HIGH OCTANE (Hazm-Rosegardenqueen): Big win in the 3-Year-Old Colts PDI PHOTO

Wind Blown leads Mitra Cup winners

Esguerra, Mendozas share limelight

By Edwin Villanueva

WIND Blown captured the Classic and gave Hermie Esguerra a big two-win romp yesterday in the 2003 Philtobo-Mitra Cup Championships at the Santa Ana Park.

The highly successful fourth running of the prestigious racefest also belonged to star jockey Pat Dilema, as well as Rudy Mendoza and his sons Paolo and John.

Guided to perfection by Jeffril Zarate, Wind Blown ruled the day's highlight event by three lengths as he reaffirmed his status as the country's No. 1 galloper.

"We'll race him next in the Marho Breeders' Cup Classic," declared Esguerra after the Hazm-Wind in My Hair progeny won his second comeback race.

When Zarate asked for the juice, Wind Blown barreled ahead at the top of the stretch after stalking Free Wind from the outset and coasted to victory with the jampacked crowd roaring in approval.

At the end of the 2,050-meter contest, Wind Blown was three lengths clear of Lyonnais, with Perfect Storm pipping Free Wind at the wire to claim third spot. Silver Story was fifth while Hyperbid was sixth and last.

Free Wind, who denied Wind Blown a place in history by winning the Presidential Gold Cup last year, outbroke the rest but Zarate quickly muscled his mount right behind, paving the way for the "Battle of the Winds Part 3."

"*Alam ko na lalagpas at lalagpas kay Free Wind. Talagang humahatak eh* (I knew he'd overhaul Free Wind. He's really raring to run)," said Zarate of the Nestor Manalang-trained, Sandy Javier-bred galloper who strode lightly as a feather with only a 57-kg handicap to carry.

The Wind Blown-Free Wind confrontation had become known as the "Battle of the Winds" since the latter won the 2002 PGC and Wind Blown bouncing back to top the Classic Open en route to bagging a second straight Horse of the Year award.

Wind Blown's victory came two races after his stablemate, High Octane, triumphed in the 3-Year-Old Colts.

Esguerra instructed Manalang to take the blinkers off High Octane for the first time, a ploy which did wonders, as the Elpidio Aguila-partnered colt won coming off the pace for the first time.

High Octane, only the far third choice, rallied from fourth spot to run down Security Master, making amends from a previous loss as outstanding pick to Earl Gray. The Hazm-Rosegardenqueen progeny also won the 2002 Juvenile Colts race.

"*Pwedeng de-remate* (He can be a stayer)," said Esguerra of High Octane who is also expected to run in the Marho Breeders' Cup slated Nov. 23, also at Santa Ana.

A big disappointment in the one-mile race was first choice Success Story who wound up fifth and last.

Rudy Mendoza claimed a couple of wins as a trainer as I Love This Game (Medium Cool-Ivory Dance), owned by Paolo, shone in the 2-Year-Old Fillies, and War Hero (Medium Cool-Palace Heights), owned by John, triumphed in the 3-Year-Old Fillies. Both horses were skippered by Dilema.

"*Salamat sa Diyos at pinalad na makadalawa pa* (Thank God we still scored two victories)," said Rudy, whose highly-touted Don Paolo was earlier beaten by the Jeffrey Ladiana-mounted Empire King (Perfect Halo-Carta Nueve) in the 2-Year-Old Colts.

Rounding out the big winners in the racing spectacle organized by the Philippine Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders was Absolute Charmer (Entrepreneur-Banter), who charged mightily from the back of the pack to win the Imports Open under Fernando Raquel Jr. Midnight Lady, Absolute Charmer's favored stablemate, finished only third.

All winners of the six majors, also backed by the Philracom, Pioneer Insurance, Tanduay, PCSO, Unilver and Disconnect Trading, got P300,000.

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BSP says ₱4B in UCPB loans 'substandard'

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has declared as substandard some P4 billion worth of loans that United Coconut Planters Bank extended to companies linked to businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr.

A substandard loan is one that involves "substantial and unreasonable degree of risk to the bank".

The loans were given to Asturias Chemical Industries Inc., Lucky Star Holding Inc. and Skyassets Inc. and the Presidential Commission on Good Government had alleged that these were part of the P10 billion in behest loans signed during the previous management of UCPB.

UCPB lent P2 billion to Asturias, P1.4 billion to Lucky Star, and P700 million to Skyassets between 1999 and 2001. At that time, the bank was already hobbled by an increasing amount of soured loans and mounting losses.

Asturias and Lucky Star are cement companies while Skyassets is a aircraft leasing operator.

"All three accounts are classified as substandard-secured in the current examination because of deficiencies in documentation and financial weaknesses," said the central bank in its report following the most recent audit of UCPB in the middle of the year.

However, during its examination, the central bank noted that of three alleged behest loan beneficiaries, only Lucky Star had an apparent link to Cojuangco, who chairs San Miguel Corp.

San Miguel vice chair Ramon Ang owns 89.12 percent of Lucky Star.

Last July, Ang defended the transactions with UCPB. "The loans that UCPB extended to Skyassets, Lucky Star and Asturias are all legitimate transactions and fully secured by collateral. The collateral includes various prime properties and shares in major corporations which collectively more than amply secured the payment of the amounts due under the said transaction."

But an in-house audit commissioned by UCPB board showed that the loans to the three companies were hastily approved and lacked the required credit investigation and background check.

The independent audit questioned why the UCPB executive committee during the time of President Estrada granted short-term loans to Lucky Star and Asturias to build cement plants (in Pangasinan and Batangas) that would only start paying off in three to four years.

The loans extended to the two firms happened at a time when the cement industry was already suffering from huge losses following a surge in cheap cement imports and a plunge in cement prices.

The independent examination also questioned why UCPB accepted shares in Cyber Bay—the developer of the Amari reclamation project off Manila Bay whose contract was nullified by the Supreme Court—in granting the loan to Skyassets.

Bad calls made by UCPB in the past had worsened its finances and forced the government in the middle of the year to infuse P20 billion in financial assistance through the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. An additional P10-billion loan facility was opened by PDIC for UCPB in July, of which about P7 billion had been disbursed.

The P20-billion assistance completed in July was not enough to arrest the bank's deteriorating finances as heavy withdrawals already reached P36 billion since December 2001 when the Supreme Court ruled that the coconut levy funds were public money.

INDICATORS

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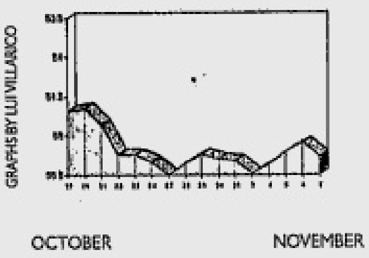

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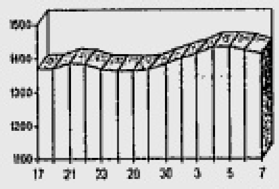
STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B3)

Market due for correction

THE STOCK market is expected to continue moving downward this week on the back of political jitters and expected market correction following recent gains.

With improved corporate earnings, the Philippine Composite Index, the market's main stock barometer, reached its highest level in 18 months before closing the week at 1,413.11, which was 14.04 points or 1 percent higher than the previous week's close.

"The market needs to consolidate its gains and build a solid base before it attempts to go up again," Jovis Vistan of AB Capital Securities said. "The market is tired and it is likely that the majority of gains are behind us at least in the near term."

Vistan noted that stocks were no longer cheap relative to 2003 earnings. On the average, the market was selling for 16 times this year's expected earnings, higher than the region's average of 15.2 times.

He also said investors would also remain wary of the local political situation.

"There will be caution in view of the Nov. 10 session of the House of Representatives, where lawmakers are expected to formally decide on the impeachment complaint against Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr."

BPItrade said the market was likely due for a correction but any correction should be viewed as good opportunities to accumulate stocks.

The Ayala-controlled securities firm said that investors would like the market to consolidate first before taking new positions.

In the long run, both Vistan and BPItrade were optimistic that there was an upside to the market.

"In the long run, we will continue to see increased confidence tied to good reports on the economy and earnings combined with very low interest rates," Vistan said.

However, investors attention would be firmly fixed on the elections and the economy.

"Further confirmation that the economy is strengthening is required before stocks can move significantly higher," Vistan said. *Elena R. Torrijos*

Intel, Gen. Trias local gov't at odds over unpaid taxes

By Abigail L. Ho
and Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva,
INQ7.net

THE MUNICIPALITY of Gen. Trias in Cavite is threatening to auction off pieces of property owned by Intel Technology Phil. Inc. if the latter will continue to refuse paying real property taxes worth more than P136.7 million.

Data from the Gen. Trias Office of the Treasurer revealed that Intel owed the municipal government taxes worth more than P85.4 million, excluding penalties that had accrued to more than P51.3 million over the years.

The unpaid taxes, according to Cavite provincial treasurer Salome Landas' letter to Intel dated Sept. 1, had accumulated from 1998 to 2003, resulting in millions of pesos in penalties and surcharges.

Before going through the process of bidding out the chip maker's assets, however, Gen. Trias Mayor Dencito Campana said the municipal government had sought the help of Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) Director General Lilia De Lima to come up with a possible win-win solution to the problem.

In a telephone interview, he admitted that Intel was a big investor that Gen. Trias needed and that the municipal government did not exactly want to drive it away.

However, he stressed that despite Intel's huge investments and the large number of

B-One

INTEL/ B4

Rules on bank auditors tightened

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has adopted tighter policies on banks' external auditors, requiring them to report within 15 to 30 days any findings that would require immediate action, including those related to violations of BSP rules and any breach of good corporate governance.

The BSP is issuing this week Circular 410 requiring banks to also change external auditors or at least rotate the lead and concurring partners every five years. A lead partner is responsible for reviewing the audit report while a concurring partner is in charge of signing the report.

The circular applies only to auditors and accountants accredited by the BSP because banks are prohibited from engaging the services of groups that have not passed the central bank's screening.

Among those accredited by the BSP are SGV & Co.; Joaquin Cunanan/Pryce Waterhouse; KPMG Laya Mananghaya; Punong-

RULES/ B7

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5
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11
Golf with Steve & Chuck
18
JP's graduation. Fetch Bobbie, Aya, Sari, marci, Andro, and Sophia
Bong
's recital
24
Off-road Biking with Sonny & micky
25
rip to Tagaytay ith Lolo, Lola d the kids
26
Buy stepladder, PVC pipes, & tiles from hardware
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Client Presentation — Bring creative team
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Shortcut to car insurance claims

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

ONE of the most bothersome insurance claims you can get involved in is when your car collides with another car. What usually follows is a heated argument over who is at fault. In the meantime, an enormous traffic jam could be building up around you. Sometimes at the scene of the accident, the other party readily admits his fault to you and then vigorously denies it later at the police station.

But when there is a confluence of the right facts, there is a time-honored short cut to settling the claim, saving both sides a lot of stress and discomfort.

Recently, I was driving my van on the North Expressway on my way to visit a client in Angeles City. Somewhere in San Simon, Pampanga, because of the ongoing reconstruction of the highway, the northbound side was closed. The northbound traffic was diverted to the two lanes of what used to be the southbound side.

Suddenly, the van on my right side swerved to the left, apparently to overtake the vehicle just ahead of him. For some strange reason, he did not see my van. He sideswiped my van and I wound up in the ditch.

If it were not for the railing, my van might have turned turtle and I would have broken my neck. Also, an oncoming vehicle missed my van, which would have resulted in a far worse accident. I was just grateful the van was still running and I was not hurt at all.

A couple of workers helped me pull my van back into the highway. To the credit of the other driver, he waited for me instead of speeding away. He had five passengers with him, none of whom was the owner. I was, of course, furious. As expected he denied all fault. On the contrary, he was blaming me for the accident.

About 15 minutes later, a highway patrol car arrived. I told the sergeant I wanted to file a statement. We all drove to the patrol base.

The desk sergeant gave me a list of documents I was to submit if I was going to file charges. I examined the registration certificate of the other vehicle. I noted that the owner lived in Subic and the insurance company was one of those that operated in the fringes of the non-life insurance industry.

The damage to my van was slightly worse that that of the other van. (Later, the repair shop I patronize in Makati estimated the damage to my van at a little over P20,000.)

Having cooled down somewhat, I offered to the other party that we should just walk away from each other and file our claims from our respective insurer. Of course, I told the other driver that his employer would probably charge the deductible to him. Or worse, if the van were not insured against own damage, the entire repair cost would probably be deducted from his salary.

For my part, I did not think it was worthwhile pursuing a third party claim against the insurance company of the owner of the other van.

This is called knock-for-knock settlement. It is based on the theory that a collision is never the fault entirely of one side. The fact that my van was on the left of the other van when the accident happened could be looked at as a contributory factor on my part. Besides, I was not hurt, and I was thankful for that. And I still made my appointment with my client.

PSE opposes proposed ATS

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has opposed the creation of any alternative trading system (ATS) in the country that would duplicate its functions without being subjected to the same rigid requirements.

"Implementing an ATS as provided in the proposed rules will only reverse the efforts of the Manila and Makati stock exchanges to consolidate toward efficiency and enforcement of integrity," the PSE said in a position paper.

"The proposed rules allow the operation of an 'exchange' with lenient rules and lower capitalization as certain aspects of an exchange is not required to be established. This set-up will create unfair competition and subject investors to greater risks," the PSE added.

If the SEC would insist on putting up the ATS, the PSE said it should complement the existing market structure.

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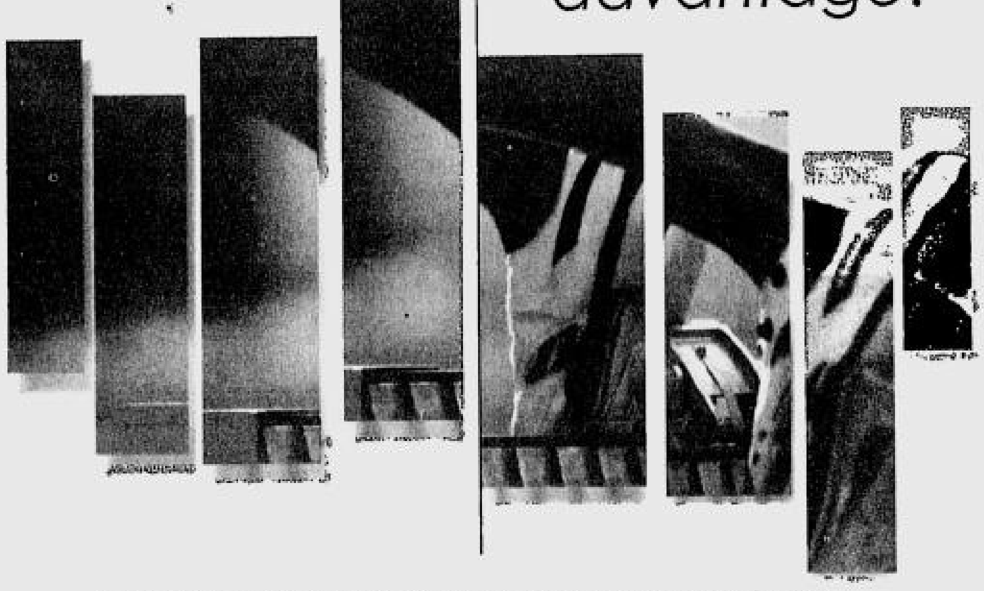
(Sgd.) Atty. Daisy L. Parker
Corporate Secretary



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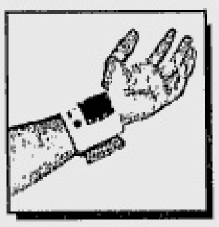

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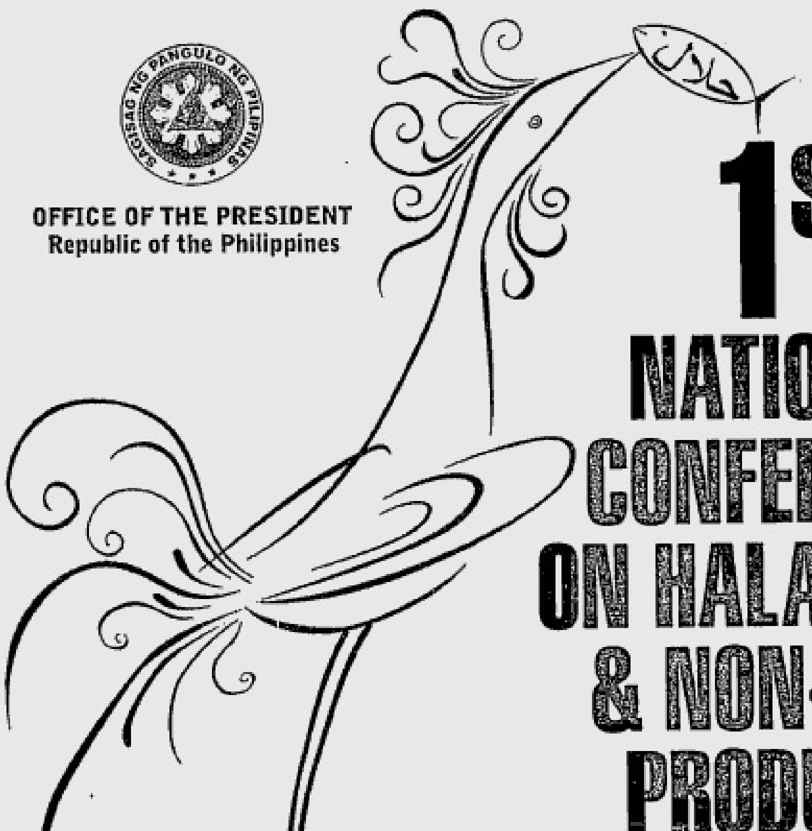

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Can't-a-Forbes

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE FAMILY of the late billionaire Roberto Villanueva is apparently in a state of denial about their reduced circumstances.

Despite already having been foreclosed and auctioned off by PBCom, the Villanuevas still refuse to allow the new owners, a company controlled by radio magnate Jose Luis "Bobet" Vera, to take possession of the backyard of their Balete Street property in South Forbes.

Bounded by Banaba Road, Banaba Circle and Balete Street, the original Villanueva property measured 6,272 square meters, three lots merged into one, humongous even by the already generous Forbes standards.

In 1977, the Villanueva patriarch, still very much alive and at the peak of his career, mortgaged the 1,983-sqm backyard to Philippine Bank of Communications.

The loan, to make a long story short, was never repaid, forcing PBCom to foreclose and auction the property in June, with the Vera company submitting the winning P65-million bid. That's about P32,779/sqm.

Instead of giving it up, the Villanuevas have posted guards and padlocked the back gate, and have been preventing even the Makati sheriff to take possession of the back lot.

Only the Villanueva widow, who is said to be 93, lives on the family home; the eldest son, named after the father, lives across from the street.

According to the grapevine, the Villanuevas have been forestalling the handover, claiming the loss might prove to be traumatic to their already frail mother who is said to love to take morning walks on the backyard.

The Villanuevas used to control AG&P, at one time the largest construction company in the country, and were also a significant shareholder of Far East Bank and Trust Co. before it was merged and taken over by the

COCKTALES/ B6

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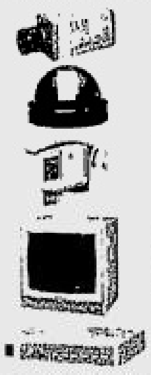

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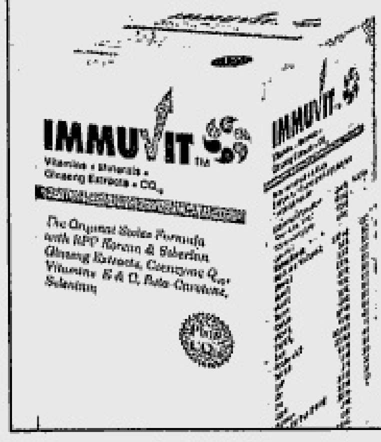

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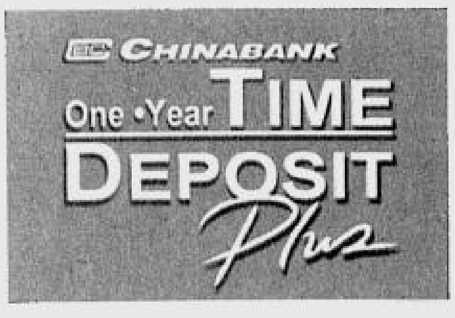

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UK firm to put up 2 power plants in Negros

By Ronnel Domingo

THE LOCAL unit of a United Kingdom-based energy firm is building two power plants in Negros Occidental worth a total of $160 million or P8.8 billion, a company official said.

In an interview, Bronzeoak Philippines managing director Jose Maria Zabaleta Jr. said the company had secured an electricity supply sale agreement with the Central Negros Electric Cooperative (Ceneco), which ensured a ready market for the electricity generated by the proposed plants.

Bronzeoak is in the middle of efforts to build and operate a 50-megawatt plant in Victorias City and a 30-MW plant in Talisay City, both in Negros Occidental.

The power plants, costing $100 million and $60 million, respectively, would run on bagasse, which is what is left after sugar cane is squeezed in the mill..

"Bronzeoak committed to provide Ceneco up to 50 MW of electricity," Zalabeta said.

However, the plants will be built primarily for the electricity needs of Victorias Milling Corp. (VMC) in Victorias and First Farmers Holding Co. in Talisay.

"(Our subsidiary) Talisay Bioenergy Inc. recently signed an agreement with First Farmers for the development of the 30-MW co-generation plant. We are now in the process of securing the necessary permits for the facility, including an environment compliance certificate," Zabaleta said.

In the meantime, Victorias Bioenergy Inc. is awaiting the go-ahead from the new owners of VMC to build the 50-MW plant.

"But we have secured all the necessary permits for that one," the official said.

He said that if all the requirements were met within a year for both plants, one plant could start commercial operation in 2006 and the other in 2007.

Zabaleta said that Bronzeoak had also started preparation for tapping funds for the projects, but that nothing definite could be done until everything was ready to build the plants.

The new plants will be located alongside the existing sugar mill and refinery complexes and were designed to provide the millers with all their process steam and power requirements.

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Intel, Gen. Trias local gov't at odds over unpaid taxes

From page B1

people it employed in Cavite (5,000), the chip maker was not exempted from paying taxes to the municipal government.

"We need Intel, but we're also protecting the welfare of the municipality. Director General De Lima will talk to them. I hope we can also sit down with Intel officials so we can clear things," he told the INQUIRER.

An Intel official admitted that the company was fully aware of the issue raised by the Gen. Trias municipal government.

Tax breaks

Mae Agne, Intel media manager, declined to give details of on-going talks among the parties concerned, including the Peza, saying this might jeopardize the results of the negotiations.

"There are ongoing talks with all (parties) concerned. We don't want to jeopardize the talks. At this point, we cannot give out any information. Whatever the outcome of the meetings, we will inform you," she told the INQUIRER in a separate interview.

Campana related that officials of Intel and the Gen. Trias municipal government already discussed the tax issue two years ago.

He said talks were cordial but the issue was never resolved. Letting the courts decide on the tax case even became an option to resolve the issue once and for all.

"But as much as possible, we don't want this to reach the courts. We'll still try our best, with the help of the Peza, to settle the issue with Intel," he said.

"We've been giving them demand letters for years, but they still had not paid. We're still hoping for a win-win solution through more talks."

Intel Technology Phil. Inc. is the manufacturing arm of Intel Corp. in the Philippines.

Since 1995, the company has been operating a manufacturing plant at the Gateway Business Park in Javalera, General Trias, Cavite.

As a locator in the economic zone, Intel was entitled to certain fiscal incentives from the government as indicated in the Omnibus Investment Code of 1987.

The Omnibus Investment Code provides income tax holidays to companies in the form of exemption from payment of local taxes, licenses, fees, and imposts, except real property taxes—which the chip manufacturer contested.

From 1998 to 2003, documents obtained by the INQUIRER showed that Intel failed to pay real property taxes to the local government of General Trias, arguing that it had been exempted from it based on a municipal and provincial ordinance passed in 1995.

But Campana said these ordinances had already been superseded by another provincial ordinance passed in 1998 that limits the exemption of an ecozone locator from real property taxes to only the first three or four years of operations.

On Oct. 24, 2000, a letter from Peza was sent to the mayor of Gen. Trias who sought clarification on Intel's real property tax liability to the local government.

Peza opinion

The Peza acknowledged that while Intel was eligible to some fiscal incentives, the company was not exempted from paying real property tax.

"From among the incentives being offered by Peza to ecozone export enterprises, Intel opted to avail itself of the income tax holiday incentive which is provided under provisions of Executive Order No. 226, otherwise known as Omnibus Investments Code of 1987," the Peza letter stated.

"The executive order provides that enterprises/projects registered with Peza—including those registered under the then Epza (Export Processing Zone Authority)—which are availing themselves of the (income tax holiday) incentive, are also exempt from the payment of local taxes, licenses, fees, imposts, except real property tax," it added.

Installed and operated machinery of any enterprises were, however, exempted from real property tax for the first three years of operation.

National gov't concern

The Department of Interior of Local Government (DILG) said real property tax, although considered provincial taxes, were the domain of the national government, based on Section 232 of the Local Government Code of 1991.

However, enterprises such as Intel were not exempt from it, as per the provisions of EO 266.

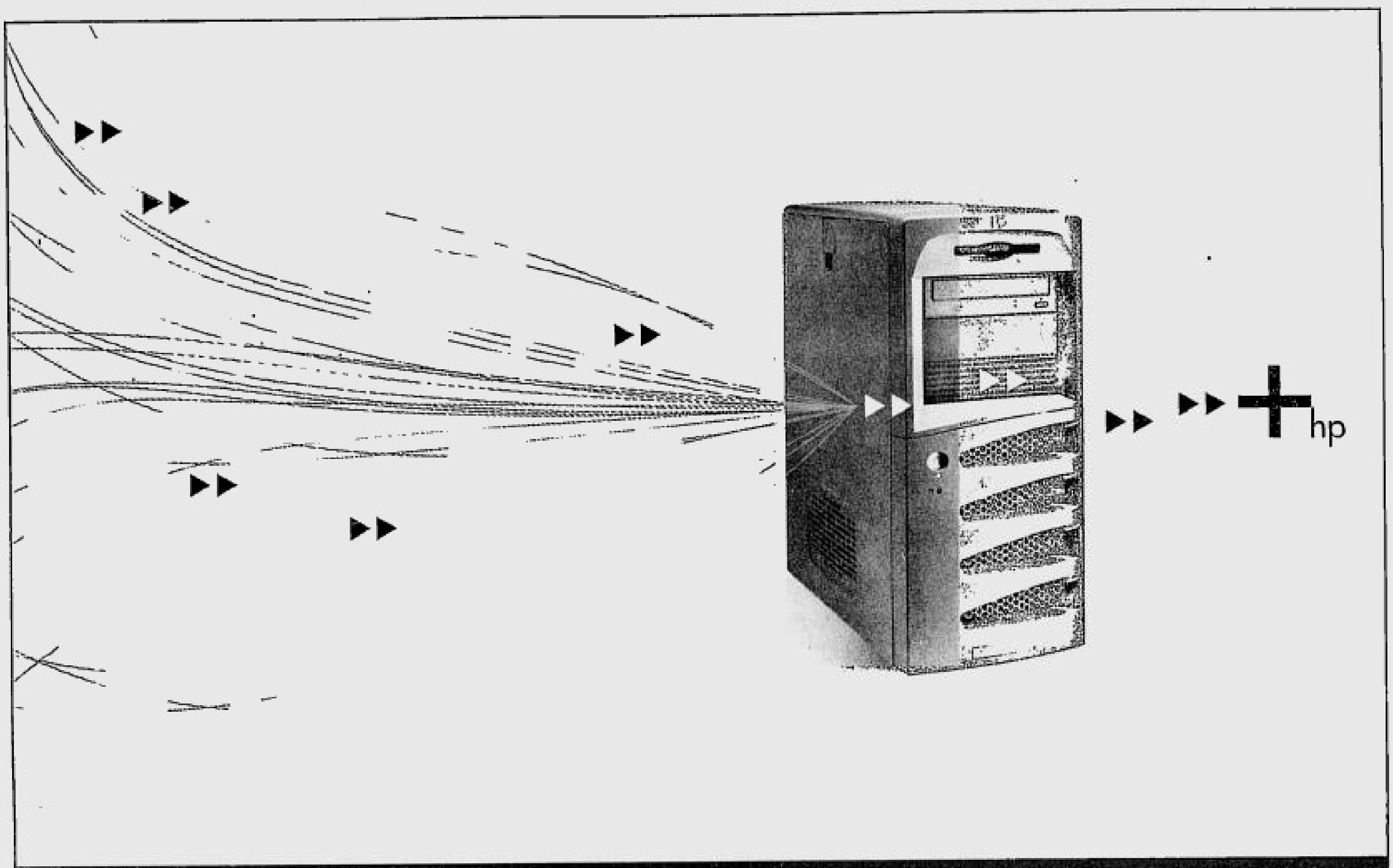
It also shared Peza's opinion, saying that a municipal ordinance could not prevail over laws passed in Congress.

DILG said that local governments were allowed to grant only tax exemptions, incentives or relief from business taxes, fees or other charges.

However, the letter also noted that local government units were authorized to "condone or reduce wholly or partially real property taxes and interest thereon pursuant to section 276 of the local government code" subject to certain conditions.

Documents showed that the Province of Cavite reported around P146 million in revenues from real property tax collections in fiscal year 2002.

This year, the local government has estimated that total revenues will increase to P229 million. As of August 2003, the province has already collected around P111 million in real property taxes.



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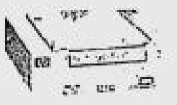

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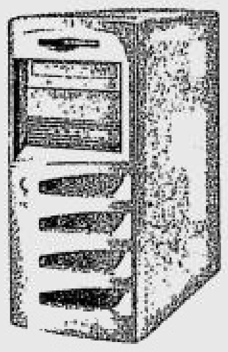

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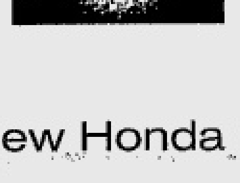

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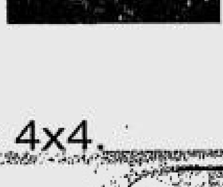

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NEVER mind Shanghai, or Beijing. One only needs to look at a place in China so much closer to us, in Boao on Hainan island, to see graphic proof of how far China has come along in becoming a truly world-class economic center.

Last week's 2003 Annual Conference of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA), the second since the inaugural conference in May 2002, attracted about a thousand participants from all over Asia as well as other parts of the globe. The forum is actually the brainchild of former President Fidel V. Ramos (elected last year as first BFA Chair with a renewable term of five years) along with a handful of other former presidents and prime ministers from the region.

A Vast Improvement

The facilities and organization of this year's Boao Forum was an immense improvement and a far cry from last year's inaugural, whose logistical lapses dampened the otherwise impressive quality and quantity of speakers and participants.

I know of many participants last year, including a number of luminaries in Philippine government, business and economics, who had vowed not to return because of those logistical weaknesses.

The few of us who nonetheless decided to participate this year (and the dramatic reduction in Filipino representation was quite evident) were suitably rewarded.

While the new structures and facilities put up last year were quite impressive as they were, a magnificent new Convention Center has taken the place of the large semi-open air tent pavilion that served as plenary hall last year.

An adjoining spanking-new 450-room luxury Sofitel now houses the overseas participants, with facilities rivaling those of top luxury hotels I've seen in New York or Paris, sparing no details such as broadband Internet connectivity from individual guestrooms, and yes, a talented Filipino family band providing live entertainment.

A four-lane highway spans the 90-minute drive—easily more than 100 kilometers—from Hainan's Haikou International Airport. And a handsome new 18-hole golf course with well-trained staff that includes caddies lies adjacent to the hotel, a welcome premium for the many golfers among the forum participants, not the least of whom was President Ramos himself.

World-class people

The hundreds of personnel who staffed this year's forum, from the secretariat to the hotel staff down to the maintenance crews, had evidently undergone months of intensive training, and the contrast from last year was stark. Even the cultural fashion show put up by the organizers was thoroughly world class, with the production and the Chinese models as professional as their Parisian counterparts.

This year's forum had a distinct first-world quality to it, both in service and in facilities.

If I have gushed in great detail describing what the Chinese have put in place in Boao, it is just to admire and illustrate how fast China has been moving towards asserting its place as the new economic focal point of the world. And this is just in a place that three years ago was little more than a sleepy fishing community. What impressed me personally was not so much the first-rate facilities, but more so the world-class people who made the second Boao Forum such an impressive success. Truly, as observed by one participant, China has arrived.

Linking Boao and Davos

Having taken four years of gestation before the first annual meeting was held last year, the Boao Forum makes no pretenses in aspiring to be the counterpart of the World Economic Forum (WEF) of Davos, Switzerland in this part of the world.

In fact, WEF head Klaus Schwab was among the invited guest speakers, firmly establishing a link with that annual forum that has been tagged as a highly influential nongovernmental economic body that has become an alternative forum for setting directions for the global economy.

Schwab must have drooled with envy upon seeing how the Chinese had outdone Davos in terms of the magnificent facilities that the hosts had built to become the home of the Boao Forum.

Like Davos, Boao in its first two years has attracted key movers and shakers in the Asian economies from business, civil society and government, including a few presidents and prime ministers. Noteworthy among the latter were Pakistani President Pervez Musharaf, Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong and China's Premier Wen Jiabao, whose speeches were among the highlights of the conference last week. Also prominent in the program was former US Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky, who together with former Chinese Deputy Trade Minister and now BFA Secretary-General Long Yongtu, regaled the audience with their first hand accounts of the difficult US-China negotiations toward China's accession to the World Trade Organization.

What destines the Boao Forum as a key forum for charting Asia's future is the way it brings together the perspectives of government, business and civil society in analyzing the trends and dynamics shaping the region's future. Virtually every participant in Boao agreed that Asia will be the new global focal point in the 21st century.

And China, whether we like it or not, will be its prime mover.

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 7, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	17.5	17.25	17.25	74,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45	45	44	44	362,300
Citystate Savings Bank	15	15	15	15	1,900
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	36	36	35.5	35.5	63,800
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	100,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	27.5	26.5	27	41,400
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	200
Security Bank Corp.	18.5	18.5	17	18.5	300
Union Bank of the Phil.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	3,100
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	1,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1625	1625	1625	1625	50
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1340	1340	1320	1320	520
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	5,200
Diversified Fin. Network	2	2	2	2	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.7	0.7	4,670,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	825	830	820	820	8,390
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	1,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.043	0.043	0.042	0.043	2,100,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.88	0.88	6,620,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	400,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	825	825	815	815	163,160
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	20,900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.75	14	13.75	14	170,500
Manila Electric Co. B	20.75	20.75	20.5	20.5	880,800
Petron Corp.	2.04	2.06	2.04	2.06	57,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	13,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.97	1	0.97	1	67,360,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.3	1.32	1.3	1.3	500,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	150,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	120,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	30,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.43	0.43	110,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	100,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.96	1.02	0.96	1.02	2,030,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	54,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17	17	16.75	16.75	29,800
San Miguel Corp. A	56	56	55.5	56	223,600
San Miguel Corp. B	63	63	62	62.5	325,900
Universal Robina Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	6,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	210,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	50,000
Ayala Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.5	4,362,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	283,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.031	0.031	0.03	0.03	10,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.72	1.7	1.72	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.58	0.59	0.57	0.57	3,600,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.115	0.115	0.11	0.115	670,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.23	0.235	4,850,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	260,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	500,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	18	18	17.75	17.75	84,500
Global Equities Inc.	0.095	0.1	0.0925	0.0925	4,600,000
Ionics Inc.	1.58	1.62	1.56	1.62	356,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	20,000
Medco Holdings	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	150,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	1,215,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,560,000
Music Corp.	0.4	0.43	0.4	0.43	2,170,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.29	0.31	0.29	0.31	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cen Azucar De Tarlac	2.38	2.38	2.38	2.38	5,000
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	10,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1	1	1	1	30,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.065	0.065	700,000
Spi Technologies Inc.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	1,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	50,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	40,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.4	0.43	0.4	0.43	190,000
Manila Jockey Club	12	12.5	12	12.5	15,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.19	0.225	0.19	0.225	130,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	180,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	1,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	36,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	15,200
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	6,500
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	50,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6	6.2	6	6.2	75,000
Far Eastern University	400	400	400	400	340
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	19,751,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	150,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	100,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.25	2,550,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	1,840,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1,610,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.2	300,000
City & Land Developers	2	2	2	2	5,000
Sm Development Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	200,000
Sm Prime Holdings Inc.	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.4	1,982,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.225	0.225	0.22	0.225	13,270,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.31	14,410,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	58,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	79,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	300,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	40,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	3,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	100,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	200,000

CURRENCIES

November 9, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.874049	1.000000	55.252000
Japan	Yen	0.007954	0.009100	0.502800
United Kingdom	Pound	1.463421	1.674300	92.508400
Hongkong	Dollar	0.112527	0.128742	7.113300
Switzerland	Franc	0.638692	0.730727	40.374100
Canada	Dollar	0.655308	0.749738	41.424500
Singapore	Dollar	0.501981	0.574317	31.732200
Australia	Dollar	0.621083	0.710581	39.261000
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.318495	2.652590	146.560900
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.233074	0.266660	14.733500
Brunei	Dollar	0.500544	0.572672	31.641300
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000118	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021933	0.025094	1.386500
UAE	Dirham	0.237985	0.272279	15.044000
Euro	Euro	1	1.144100	63.213800
ArgentinaPeso	0.306147	0.350263	19.352700	
Brazil	Real	0.305826	0.349895	19.332400
Denmark	Kroner	0.134446	0.153822	8.499000
India	Rupee	0.019303	0.022085	1.220200
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.230044	0.263193	14.541900
Mexico	New Peso	0.079655	0.091133	5.035300
New Zealand	Dollar	0.540504	0.618391	34.167300
Korea	Won	0.000739	0.000845	0.046700
Syria	Pound	0.020811	0.023810	1.315600
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025737	0.029446	1.627000

Cocktales

From page B3

Bank of the Philippine Islands.

Getting phy-Siy-cal

PUBLICLY, textile scions George Siy and eldest sister Bernadine Siy are talking of amicably settling their long-running sibling rivalry.

Privately, the family feud has taken a turn for the worse, with the siblings nearly coming to blows with each other.

George, who is the second of the six Siy siblings after Bernardine, has chosen not to talk to the press about the feud, although he has been showing to his close friends video footage of how one brother attacked a younger sister allied with George who was filming the brother taking office paraphernalia out of the family-owned office building in Salcedo Village.

The bottom line, according to the grapevine, is that George now wants to take the divorce route, and break up the textile-fast food-cosmetics-real estate family empire and divide it among the siblings.

The Bernadine group resists the idea—how do you divide a textile company? Besides, the mother and all the aunts are on the Bernadine side.

MBC ban

THE EXECUTIVE director of the Makati Business Club, Guillermo Luz, wrote to say that the club indeed has imposed a ban on the Inquirer covering any of the MBC press conferences and public forums.

According to Luz, the ban will stay until the INQUIRER resolves a complaint of fabrication of quotes/off-the-record agreement filed by the MBC against two INQUIRER reporters.

Heard through the grapevine

A LEADING anesthesiologist lost a pile of jewelry, said to be valued at P250 million, after her Dasmariñas Village home was burglarized recently.

The police initially picked up a new maid in the doctor's employ, but released the help for lack of evidence. The maid was on her day-off when the house was broken into. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

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CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,150,000	1,300,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,400,000
Baguio Country Club	650,000	680,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	60,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	70,000
Camp John Hay	200,000	250,000
Canlubang	375,000	500,000
Canyonwoods	-	150,000
Capitol Hills	160,000	180,000
Cebu Country Club	1,200,000	Please Call
Celebrity Sports Club	160,000	200,000
Club Filipino	130,000	175,000
Evercrest "A"	-	80,000
Forest Hills "A"	-	170,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	230,000
Forest Hills "C"	200,000	250,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	200,000	250,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	250,000	300,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	10,800,000	-
Manila Golf (Individual)	Please Call	10,100,000
Manila Polo	2,275,000	2,350,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	350,000	400,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	500,000	600,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	400,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	-	100,000
Mimosa (Individual)	115,000	140,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	250,000	275,000
Montemar (Corporate)	-	35,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	200,000	275,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	-	400,000
Puerto Azul	-	100,000
Quezon City Sports Club	140,000	200,000
Rockwell	-	380,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	80,000
Sherwood Hills "C"	-	180,000
Spa & Lodge	600,000	800,000
Sta. Elena "A"	Please Call	1,300,000
Sta. Elena "B"	1,300,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	220,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	330,000	370,000
Tagaytay Highlands	800,000	830,000
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	700,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	100,000	140,000
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	250,000
Valley Golf	250,000	330,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,000,000	7,100,000

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Baguio Country Club	750,000	650,000
Canyon Woods	160,000	100,000
Capitol Hills	170,000	150,000
Calatagan Golf Club A/B**	70,000/Pls. Call	-
Cebu Country Club	-	1,230,000
Celebrity Sports Club	-	150,000
Club Filipino	160,000	140,000
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	300,000/450,000**	260,000
Eastridge	100,000	-
Evercrest	100,000	-
Fontana D/C*/A**	70,000/140,000*/230,000**	-
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	190,000/220,000*/250,000**	190,000**
Manila Golf Ind./Corp.*	10,330,000/12,000,000*	-
Manila Polo	2,300,000	2,200,000
Manila Yacht Club	550,000	-
Manila Southwoods A/B*	420,000/600,000*	500,000*
Metropolitan Club	100,000	-
Mimosa Golf Ind./Corp.*	150,000	120,000/250,000*
Mt. Malarayat Ind./Corp.*	230,000	-
Phil. Columbian	60,000	-
Puerto Azul A/B	100,000/150,000*	-
Punta Fuego	-	400,000
Quezon City Sports Club A	-	165,000
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	140,000/165,000*/380,000**	100,000
Rockwell Leisure Club	300,000	-
Royale Tagaytay A/C*	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Sherwoods A/B*/C**	70,000/Pls. Call*	-
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	1,300,000/1,650,000*	-
Subic Bay Yacht Club (Corp.)	150,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	370,000	-
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	830,000	700,000
Tagaytay Midlands	700,000	650,000
Tat Filipinas A	-	130,000
Valley Golf & CC	300,000	250,000

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CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB "B"	65K	-
CAMP JOHN HAY	-	200K
CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	180K	150K
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	-	175K
COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	370K	please call
EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB	86K	-
EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	-	please call
EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "B"	please call	380K
EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "C"	-	350K
EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	85K	-
FONTANA "D"	-	50K
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	210K	please call
MANILA GOLF CLUB (Ind.)	please call	9.8K
MANILA GOLF CLUB (Corp.)	-	10.8K
MANILA POLO CLUB	please call	2.3M
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	450K	-
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	-	530K
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "B"	please call	200K
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	200K	-
ROYALE TAGAYTAY	please call	
SHERWOOD HILLS "B"		110K
SPA & LODGE		600K
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "B"		1.3M
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS GOLF CLUB	-	please call
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS		650K
VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	135K	-
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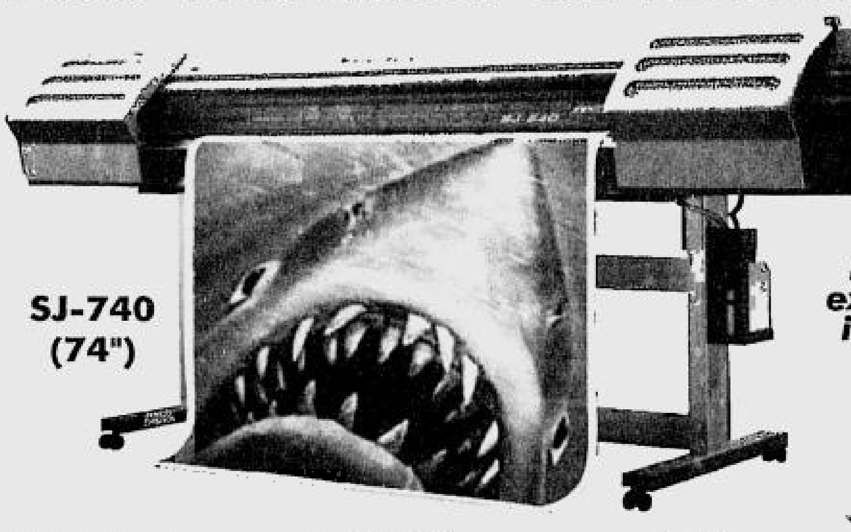

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Corporate outreach and ARMM education

MINDANAO ONE

Tina Cuyugan

IN MINDANAO, the private sector has shown foresight in supporting socio-economic development through non-traditional calls for action. Chambers of commerce and commodity associations have committed themselves to pushing for the peace process and for greater transparency and accountability on the part of the government. Why? Because they've realized that it makes excellent business sense to do so.

There are other areas of concern, however, which warrant equal prescience and long-term support from the business community. One of the most critical sectors is education-particularly public education in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and other conflict-affected areas.

Education in the Philippines as a whole needs overhauling after decades of neglect, but the situation in ARMM is exceptionally dire.

Functional literacy in ARMM is 61 percent, compared with 86 percent in Luzon, according to a study by Myra T. Medina of the Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program. The ratio of children of high school age who are enrolled is lowest in ARMM, just 31 percent, compared with 92.5 percent in NCR and 60 percent in Region 12, which is just right next door to ARMM.

Out of every 10 students who enroll in elementary school, two will drop out or fail to enroll the following year, Medina says. Only one in 10 who enroll in Grade 1 will eventually manage to graduate from high school within the normal time frame.

How did this come to pass? On top of the endemic problems affecting education countrywide, other factors specific to ARMM have served to drag education down.

One is the long-standing conflict in the region, which has resulted in students becoming evacuees; soldiers and evacuees being housed in classrooms, and local economies disrupted, to name just a few of its effects.

Also, ARMM provinces are the poorest in the country, which means fewer resources for supplementing existing education services. There is the problem of limited access to schools in remote areas, particularly in the island-provinces of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi.

The socio-economic costs of poor education will inevitably chip away at Mindanao's development gains. The lack of basic literacy, math and communication skills, and a high dropout rate translate into a substandard labor pool and weak consumer market. Youths with no skills are vulnerable to being dragged into armed conflicts and criminality.

Everyone talks about the economic boost generated by eradicating bureaucratic red tape, but the economic benefits of having an effective education system haven't quite made it onto the radar screen. According to a 1999 study by Arsenio Balisacan, the rate of poverty incidence falls by 3 percent for every one percent improvement in functional literacy. That's a pretty good return on investment in public education.

There are many ways in which the business community could help, whether through direct assistance to a local school, raising public awareness, or calling for greater government support for public education.

Direct intervention could be through traditional assistance in the form of scholarships and donation of school equipment. It could also be through innovative partnerships with parent-teacher associations and local NGOs to upgrade teacher skills and enhance community support for education.

The Mindanao private sector, which has successfully conducted a long-term campaign calling for government investment in key regional infrastructure projects, should also call for appropriate and equitable levels of spending in education.

At the regional and local levels, business support groups can push for the Countryside Development Fund and the Special Education Fund of local governments to be channeled into sound education projects, Medina says.

According to her study, the national per student budget is 38 percent higher than the per student budget in ARMM. Given the catching up that ARMM education needs to do, the business community should press for its budget to be even higher than the national level.

The ARMM Business Council and the Mindanao Business Council are now leading their member-organizations in urging government to devote more resources towards improving education in the autonomous region and other conflict-affected areas.

Chambers of commerce, many of them located in ARMM, have issued statements calling for better public education, and have gotten the support of governor Parouk Hussin.

The Mindanao Business Council and the League of Corporate Foundations held a forum in Davao City last week on corporate social responsibility. Many of the participants expressed keen interest in the state of education in ARMM, and in directing their outreach towards assistance to public schools.

Even the Manila-based Makati Business Club is stepping up its education support efforts in ARMM. The MBC is working to provide more access for students in the region to information technology through its ConnectEd program, in partnership with the USAID-funded GEM Program.

These are promising signs that public education is on the verge of getting the attention it deserves. In ARMM and the conflict-affected areas of Mindanao, that attention is sorely needed.

Rules . . .

From page B1

bayan & Araullo; Guzman, Bocaling and Associates, and CL Manabat & Co.

Tougher policies on bank auditors are aimed at preventing any abuse or fraud that could evolve from cozy relationships between auditors and their principals.

To prevent conflict of interest, the Monetary Board would prohibit a bank from hiring an external auditor who has, or whose family has outstanding loans with the bank.

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The Supreme Court has ruled that the coconut levy funds are public in character. This has threatened the interest of San Miguel Corporation Chair Eduardo Cojuangco, Jr. The attempt to impeach the Honorable Chief Justice Hilario Davide, Jr. led by the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC) of which Mr. Cojuangco is the Chair, is payment in kind. We ask our fellow citizens to stand up against this naked abuse of power.

We condemn the indecent haste of the NPC representatives and other perpetrators of the second impeachment complaint against Justice Davide, Jr. We cannot allow self-interested politicians and the booty capitalists behind them who have benefited from Martial Law decrees, to triumph over men and women of goodwill.

We support the Honorable Chief Justice against this unconstitutional and desperate attempt to prevent him from presiding over proceedings on the unjust coconut levy. It is time for justice to finally be rendered.

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PLDT plans to issue ₱15B in bonds next year

By Elena R. Torrijos

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co., the country's largest telecommunications firm, plans to issue as much as P15 billion in bonds next year to refinance maturing foreign currency-denominated debt.

PLDT president and chief executive Manuel Pangilinan has offered members of the Investment Houses Association of the Philippines the opportunity to underwrite the peso-denominated bonds as a club deal, a person familiar with the matter said.

The bonds, which will be issued in tranches over one year, will have a maturity of five years and will be listed at the country's fixed income exchange. The exchange is expected to open for trading in the second quarter of next year, the source said.

However, when contacted for comment, PLDT spokesperson Butch Jimenez said he was not aware of the planned bond issue.

Last June, banking sources said PLDT might raise funds locally as the company was encouraged by the market's warm response to its one-year commercial paper issue.

PLDT earlier raised P2 billion through a two-tranche, one-year commercial issue. The first tranche, completed in April, raised P1.6 billion at a yield of 11.16 percent while the second tranche of P400 million carried a rate of 10.05 percent.

The sources had said that PLDT might be keen on issuing peso bonds with a maturity of two or three years to take advantage of the liquidity in the financial system.

PLDT last June obtained the approval from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to issue notes worth as much as $450 million for its infrastructure spending.

All foreign borrowings planned by the public or private sector need a clearance from the Monetary Board.

PLDT earlier reported that its profit in the first nine months of the year rose 58 percent to P5.8 billion, fueled by the sizzling performance of its wireless phone service unit, Smart Communications Inc.

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LRTA seeking real estate tax discounts

By Abigail L. Ho

SADDLED with more than P25 billion in debts coursed through the national government, the Light Rail Transit Authority is now seeking real estate tax discounts from local government units to help ease the second heaviest drag on its bottom line.

In an interview, LRTA Administrator Teodoro Cruz Jr. said that while the railway authority was earning more than enough to cover its operational expenses, the real estate taxes that it had to pay the LGUs were weighing the company's finances down.

"We're not only hit by loan payments and interest charges, but also by taxes. The real estate taxes we pay to the LGUs are really weighing us down. Our proposal is for LGUs to give us a discount on taxes. After all, their residents benefit from the train system," he told the INQUIRER.

Real estate occupied by LRT Lines 1 and 2 fell under the jurisdiction of six LGUs: Caloocan, Manila, Pasay, Parañaque, Marikina and Quezon City.

LRT Line 1 runs from Baclaran in Parañaque to Monumento in Caloocan. The LRT Line 2 covers the 13.8-kilometer stretch from Santolan in Pasig to Cubao in Quezon City. This will eventually run up to Recto in Manila.

Because of this, the LRTA needs to pay appropriate real estate taxes as assessed by the respective LGUs.

Cruz said that while the LRTA recognized the fact that LGUs also needed the revenues from the taxes, the LRTA also needed to become more viable to be able to better serve the commuters.

As of end-June, the LRTA's financial charges had reached P334 million, while operational expenses were placed at P510 million. Revenues amounted to P580 million.

Apart from seeking tax discounts from LGUs, the LRTA is also seeking exemption from the salary standardization law, which affects government employees.

LGUs, business urged to invest in Ro-Ro system

By Doris C. Dumlao

ECONOMIC Planning Secretary Romulo Neri has urged the private sector and local government units to invest in the roll-on/roll-off (Ro-Ro) transport system to perk up economic activities in the countryside.

In a recent speech before the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Neri noted that the terminals of the Ro-Ro transport system could serve as "catalysts for area development."

"The establishment of Ro-Ro terminals can increase the flow of cargoes and people in and out of an area. This could result in increased investments, production, employment, income, consumption, savings and more taxes for the LGUs," Neri said.

Neri said private investors could invest in both the construction of the terminals and the acquisition of the Ro-Ro vessels using his own funds or through the Sustainable Logistics Development Program of the Development Bank of the Philippines.

The LGUs, for the part, may utilize their internal revenue allotment for the construction of the terminal or enter into joint ventures or a build-operate-transfer arrangement with a private partner.

Neri said regional trade would flourish with this transport system as there would be greater incentive to produce more and develop new products because they reach market destinations fast.

He likened a Ro-Ro ship to a "moving" bridge because it facilitates connection among islands which are far apart."

He added that the system would empower the farm and fishery sectors because it was designed to address the inefficiencies in the transport and distribution network in the country.

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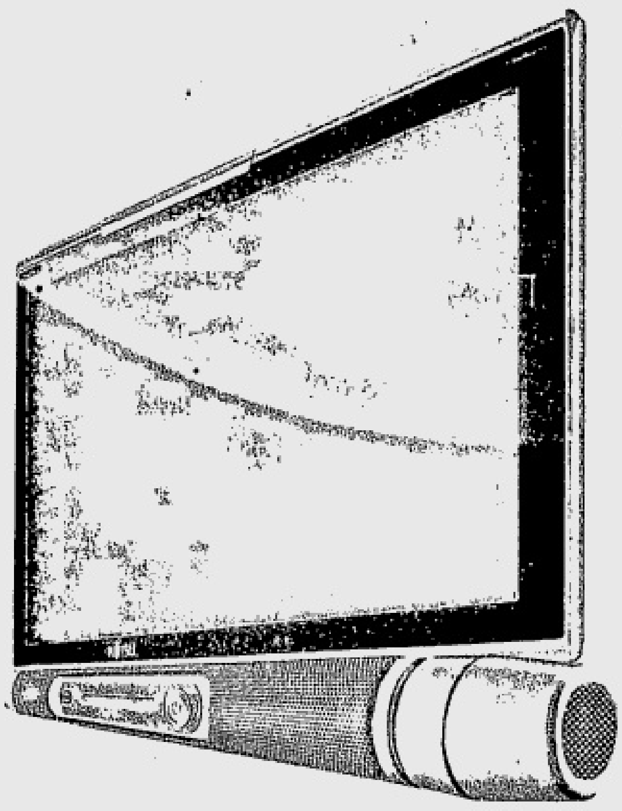

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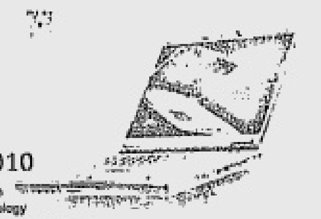

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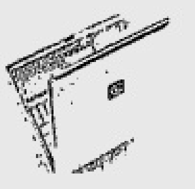

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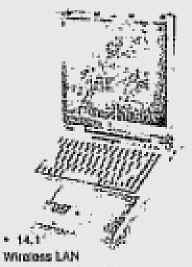

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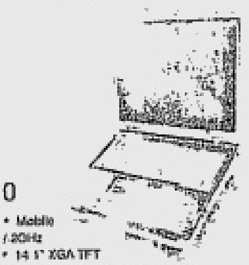

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Gov't revenue seen exceeding 2003 target

By Clarissa S. Batino

GOVERNMENT revenue will likely hit P602 billion or P18 billion higher than the target of P584 billion for the year, according to the Development Budget Coordination Committee.

The DBCC said this should have allowed the government to meet easily the P202-billion deficit target had spending not accelerated substantially in the third quarter.

As of end-September, government expenditures already breached the ceiling for the period by P19 billion. Unless the government would spend below program in the last three months of the year, the increase in revenue would not be enough to offset the huge incremental spending in the third quarter.

"The likely scenario for the revenue program is a high of P602 billion against a program of P584 billion. The high scenario leaves room for additional disbursements of only P18 billion to keep the P202-billion target intact," said a well-placed source from the DBCC. The last DBCC meeting was a month ago.

In the fourth quarter, the government must spend only P205.7 billion and earn at least P152.3 billion to keep the deficit within the ceiling.

To regulate spending, the DBCC had proposed for the issuance by the budget department of a circular that would require agencies to seek clearance for payment to any creditor.

The move will allow the budget department to check if the disbursement is covered by a Special Allotment Release Order and whether it is included in the cash program of the involved agency.

The DBCC based its revenue forecast on expectations that the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs would at least meet their full-year targets of P424 billion and P100 billion.

PNOC unit forges deal with Petronas

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE EXPLORATION arm of the Philippine National Oil Co. has entered into a joint venture with Malaysian petroleum giant Petroliam Nasional Bhd or Petronas to look for oil and gas in offshore Mindoro, according to PNOC president Thelmo Cunanan.

"There is already an agreement to drill exploration wells but there is no decision yet on when to do this," Cunanan disclosed.

PNOC Exploration Corp. hopes to raise the attractiveness of the Mindoro GSEC (geophysical survey and exploration contract) No. 100 area to third-party investors.

Farm-in opportunities had been previously offered to Unocal of the United States, Lasmo of the United Kingdom, PT Tegar and PTT-EP of Thailand, Amity Oil and Santos of Australia, Medco of Indonesia and GM International of Canada.

In an earlier interview, PNOC-EC president Rufino Bomasang said the physical search for oil and gas in the area covered by GSEC No. 100 could start as soon as firm commitments were secured.

PNOC-EC also has interests in GSEC 73, which covers the Cotabato petroleum basin.

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LIFESTYLE

7 firms eye gov't stake in Malampaya project

By Ronnel W. Domingo

SEVEN firms have expressed interest in acquiring the stake of the state-owned Philippine National Oil Co. in the $2-billion Malampaya natural gas project.

PNOC chief operating officer Alfredo Parungao said in an interview that an Indonesian firm had signed up for a due diligence study while six other firms have signed confidentiality agreements.

Parungao said the deals were made following the successful international roadshow held in September to drum up investor interest in the government share in the Malampaya project.

PNOC subsidiary PNOC Exploration Corp. has a 10-percent stake in the project while Shell Exploration Philippines BV and Texaco Philippines have 45 percent each.

Parungao said the bidding for the government shares could be held as early as the end of the year considering the interest displayed by these foreign firms.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange last month, PNOC-EC said 12 foreign firms were considering to take part in the privatization of the Malampaya shares.

These 12 companies received copies of a confidentiality agreement but only three of them had so far signed the document.

Parties interested to acquire an equity stake would have to enter into a confidentiality agreement with PNOC-EC to access data relevant to the Malampaya stake, the company said.

"At the proper time, PNOC-EC would open access to the (our) data room for due diligence to interested investors who have executed a confidentiality agreement with (the company)," it added.

DOST food technologists make 'strawberry leather'

By Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—By next year, strawberry lovers will have something to be excited about in the new "strawberry leather" or strawberry candies in strips.

The technology was introduced here by the regional Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

"This is another product line for strawberry. Of course, we have come to know strawberry jams, preserves, wines and candies. Our new product is another alternative to process our strawberries," Ben Ladilad, DOST regional director, said in a recent press forum here.

The strawberry leather, introduced in July by DOST and the Industrial Technology Development Institute, is the latest product that was expected to increase the income of strawberry farmers.

Ladilad said that since strawberries are perishable, the strawberry leather offers another way to enjoy the seasonal fruit.

He said the strawberry leather is processed through dehydration. Once dehydrated, it is flattened and mixed with enough sugar to enhance the natural sweetness of the fruit.

In its leather form, the product is cut into strips and packaged like flattened chewing gums. The leather is then cut into paper-thin strips and individually packed in foil.

Ladilad said the strawberry leather has no preservatives but uses a little amount of sugar.

He said even DOST employees were amused with this new product when it was introduced four months ago.

Rosimo Aquino, regional coordinator of the DOST's national computer center, said the strawberry leather has a longer shelf life.

Ladilad said the strawberry leather would be initially sold in local stores.

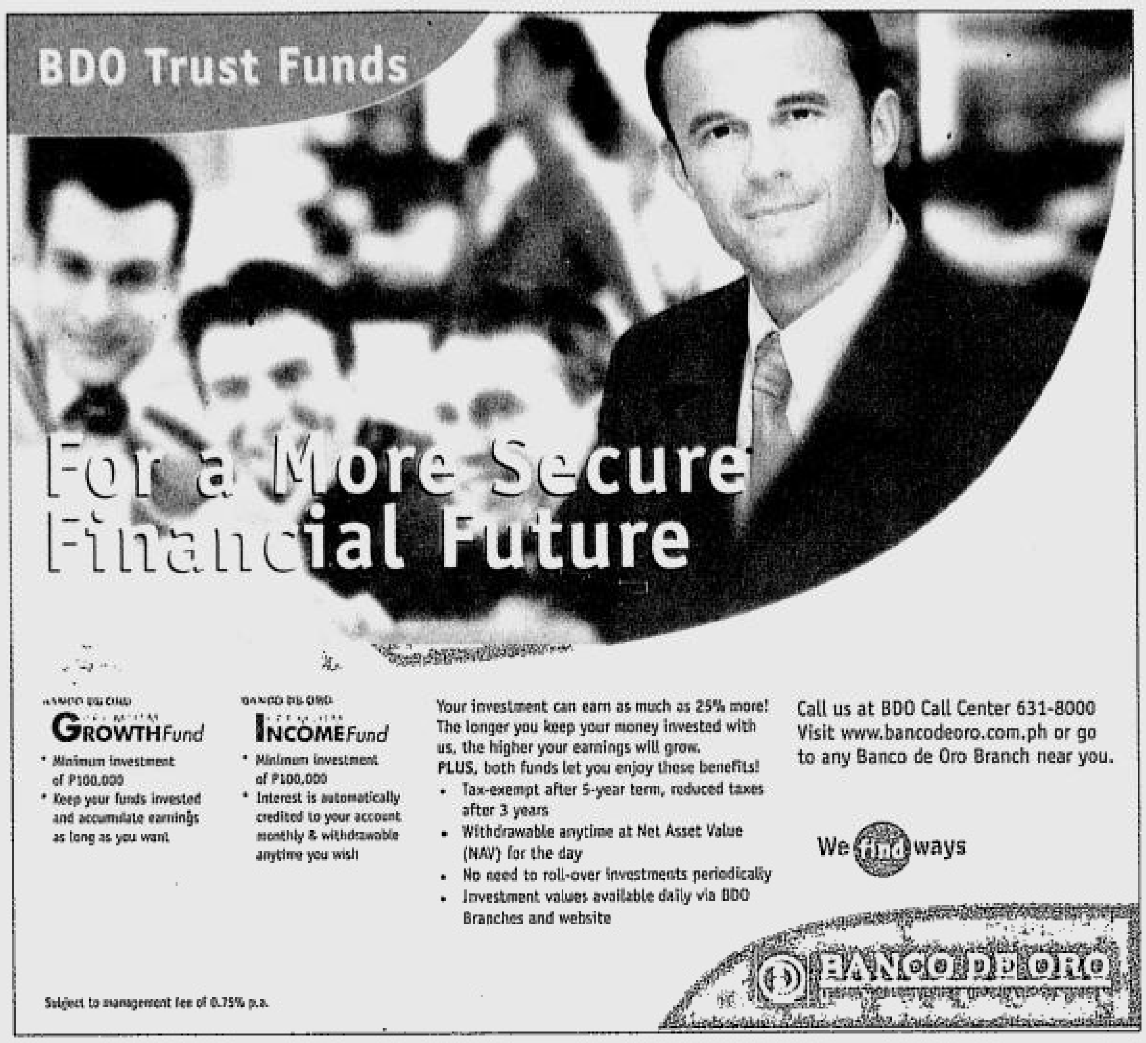
The DOST's food technologists will evaluate the product's quality and acceptability before the agency considers producing it on a commercial scale of for the export market.

Ladilad said the strawberry leather has a potential foreign market like the dried mangoes.

"But the problem would be how the farmers could keep up with the demands in the market," he said.

The DOST tapped strawberry farmer Marvin Chagyo to lead in the commercial production of the strawberry leather for a year.

A strawberry farmer said strawberries easily rot a few days after harvest because there are only a few plants that can process the strawberries.



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Lapanday sees increase in fruit export revenue

By Christine A. Gaylican

FRESH produce exporter Lapanday Foods Corp. (LFC) expects a 5 to 10 percent increase in its export revenue, mainly due to its product diversification strategy and higher sales in the Middle East.

LFC plantation general manager Francisco Lorenzo told the INQUIRER in an interview that Lapanday Foods' export revenue this year was expected to surpass the $180-million mark that it reached last year.

"In spite of the crisis in Iraq, there was a surge in our sales in the Middle East. The excess fruits produced by the company are diverted to these markets," Lorenzo said in an interview.

With the higher export revenues, Lapanday likewise expected to post a profit of about $13 to $15 million this year, slightly higher than last year's $10 million.

Lapanday Foods has made its mark in the export market because of its fresh Cavendish bananas, which were exported mainly to Japan.

It diversified into the export of other banana varieties including lacatan, señorita, lady fingers and red bananas under various brand names. It also exports fresh pineapple and vegetables for Del Monte Pacific Ltd.

Lorenzo added that the establishment this year of a new affiliate—Lapanday Diversified Products Corp.—strengthened its ability to reach alternative markets.

LFC now taps markets such as South Korea, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, New Zealand and the Middle East.

One of Lapanday Diversified's first major moves was to invest P382 million to increase the production capacity of fresh bananas and pineapples.

Board of Investments records show that Lapanday's project covers a 500-hectare plantation in Bukidnon, with a production capacity of 24,688 metric tons per year.

Foreign fund managers still keen on local stocks

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOREIGN investors have not lost their appetite for Philippine stocks despite the July 27 mutiny staged by junior military officers and the number of political squabbles that have erupted since then.

PSE chair Alicia Rita Arroyo said foreign investors have remained net buyers almost daily since June, although the level has been on the decline from June to September this year.

Net foreign buying amounted to P2.04 billion in June, P1.48 billion in July, P974.7 million in August and P942.93 million in September.

By October, the trend was reversed as a net foreign selling of P9.4 billion was recorded, but traders said this was primarily due to two extraordinary transactions—the sellout of shares held by International Commercial Bank of China in China Banking Corp. as well as of the shares held by debt-strapped Deutsche Telekom in Globe Telecom.

Traders said foreign traders were still gobbling up local stocks on the back of the recovery of giant offshore markets.

"When foreign markets go up, we somehow get a windfall. After all, we are still part of the Morgan Stanley index which is closely monitored by fund managers across the globe," said Joseph Roxas, president of Eagle Equities Inc.

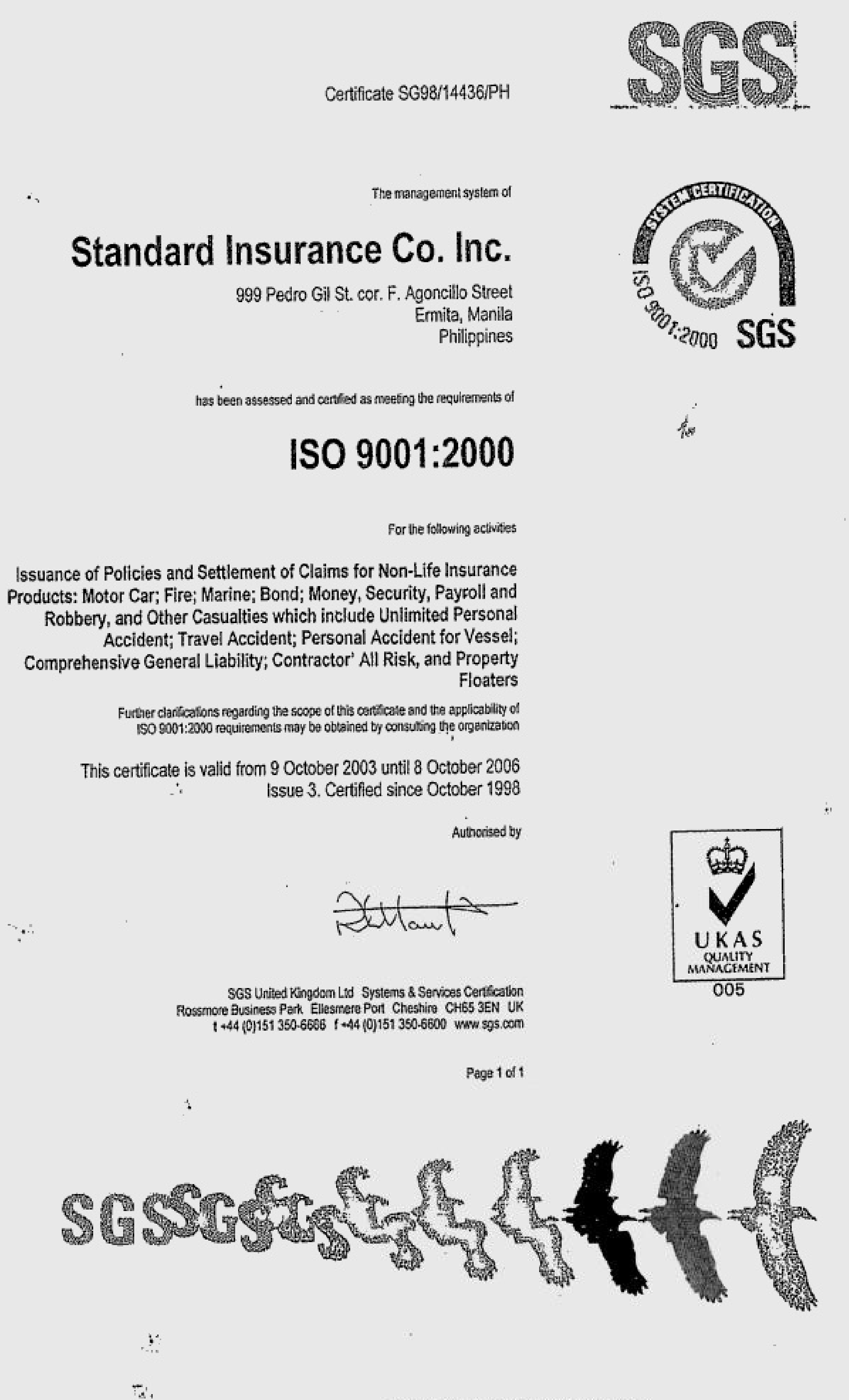
"The foreigners have not left even after the Glorietta mutiny. They are still here and they are the ones making money," added former PSE chair Vivian Yuchengco.

Foreign transactions still account for bulk of trades in the local bourse.

In June, these accounted for almost 52 percent of total transactions. The shares stood at about 50 percent in July, 55.6 percent in August, 62.9 percent in September and 67.65 percent in October.

As a percentage of total value turnover, net foreign buying accounted for 15.87 percent in June, 10.29 percent in July, 11.58 percent in August and 7.09 percent in September.

In October, the net foreign selling accounted for 22.68 percent of total value turnover.



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WORLD ECONOMIC GROWTH

US jobs, OECD survey fan upbeat outlook

WASHINGTON—The global economic outlook took on a rosier hue on Friday after a surprisingly large surge in US jobs and a key report from the OECD showing prospects for the world's top economies have brightened significantly.

The number of workers on US payrolls outside the farm sector soared 126,000 in October, the largest rise since January, the Labor Department said in a key report which also made sharp upward revisions to August and September figures.

The US unemployment rate was also more upbeat than expected, falling to 6 percent from September's 6.1 percent.

"The jobless recovery is over," Wells Fargo economist Sung Won Sohn declared in a report. Bond markets turned south on the stronger-than-expected numbers but the dollar and stock markets edged higher on economic hopes.

And the news prompted the White House to predict further robust gains—something the Bush administration is counting on as it heads into a presidential election in 2004.

In a further piece of global good news, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's September monthly early warning indicator reinforced the optimistic message from a clutch of recent data.

It said things were looking up for the United States and Japan, and to a lesser extent the euro zone and Britain.

The week has been filled with buoyant US numbers on manufacturing, services and productivity, along with separate reports on European and British services, bolstering the impression the global recovery was taking root.

The OECD's overall gauge of economic prospects rose in September for the Group of Seven leading industrialized countries, with the index hitting 124.0 after 122.6 in August.

The US measure grew to 135.9, from 134.8—the sixth straight monthly rise. For Japan, it rose to 106 from 104.5.

The euro zone gauge improved to 122.9 from 121.5. Germany, Europe's largest economy, saw its indicator rise strongly to 126.1 from 124.6 while Britain edged up to 105.8 from 105.3.

With the upbeat headlines from both sides of the Atlantic, some economists were starting to wonder when the Federal Reserve will follow the Bank of England's example of raising rates.

The BOE on Thursday became the first of the world's top four central banks in more than three years to increase borrowing costs, suggesting the global easing cycle begun by the Fed in January 2001 in a bid to foster growth has ended.

Policy-makers at the Fed have pledged to keep interest rates low to allow the expansion to take hold, with Fed chair Alan Greenspan on Thursday saying monetary policy "is able to be more patient" in a low-inflation situation. *Reuters*

Oil prices jump on signs of US growth

NEW YORK—US oil prices jumped on Friday on signs of brightening economy in the world's biggest energy consumer.

The US Labor Department on Friday said the number of workers soared by 126,000 last month. Last week, the government reported that the economy grew at more than 7 percent in the third quarter, its fastest rate since the mid-1980s.

US demand for gasoline also rose. Drivers guzzled some 9.1 million barrels per day during the last two weeks of October, up about 3.5 percent than last year's average daily demand, according to the US Energy Information Administration (EIA).

"Gasoline demand has been extremely strong, and that may well have to do with the quickening economy," said Aaron Brady, analyst at Energy Security Analysis Inc. in Boston.

US fuel stocks had been rising ahead of the Northern Hemisphere winter in recent weeks, helping offset worries about the impact of an Opec output cut that began at the beginning of the month, and pushing oil prices down 12 percent.

But prices surged more than 5 percent on Wednesday after weekly data showed lower than expected inventories.

Heating fuel demand could rise as the mild weather enjoyed by the US-Northeast, the world's biggest heating oil market, is expected to turn colder this weekend, according to private weather forecaster Meteorlogix.

It predicted Northeast temperatures up to 10 degrees below normal on Sunday before turning warmer by the middle of next week, which could mean further declines in stockpiles, analysts say.

US heating oil prices settled up 1.08 cents at 83.30 cents a gallon on Friday, about 10 percent higher than this time last year.

The threat of another output cut by Opec this year has also supported prices, pushing the cartel's own price basket to just cents away from the top of its preferred $22-$28 range.

The president of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, Abdullah al-Attiyah, warned earlier this week that if oil supplies continued to grow as they had been in recent weeks, it might have to cut supplies again.

Opec implemented a 3.5 percent cut in output on Nov. 1, reducing its production ceiling to 24.5 million barrels per day (bpd) on concern of a contra-seasonal increase in winter oil stockpiles as Iraq and non-aligned exporters, like Russia, lift exports. *Reuters*

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KANKYOU TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION's
5th Year Anniversary
and
BROWN & GREEN's
1st Year Anniversary

cordially invites all
POLLUTION CONTROL OFFICERS to attend a FREE SEMINAR on:

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To be held at the ballroom of DUSIT HOTEL NIKKO on November 28, 2003 (1:00-5:00 P.M.)
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ECIJAS MARINE and OFW Club
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Estancia Fishermen Action Group (EFAG)
Canoan Community Farmers Beneficiary Association (CCFBA)
Tanza Agrarian Reform Beneficiary Association (TANARBA)
Asosasyon sang Mangunguma cag Mangingisda sang Carles (AMMACAR)
Maniot Farmers and Fishermen Association (MASSA)
Asosasyon sang Mangunguma, Mangingisda sang Marangkalan (AMMBA)
Buwaya Farmers and Fisherfolks Association in Sicogon
Association sang Mangunguma cag Mangingisda sang San Fernando (AMMASAN)
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CAW-I Organization
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SML ng Payatas

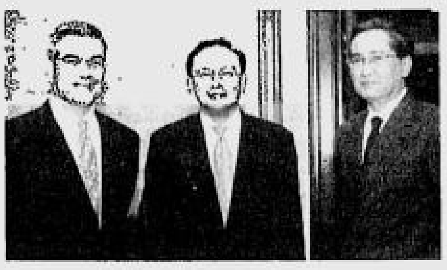
OCT.28 movement

An Innove-tive launch

"ALL OUR products and services offered under Globelines and GlobeQUEST will be housed in a single company with the same standards and quality you have enjoyed, but now delivered over a wider and constantly expanding domestic and international network infrastructure, with an even stronger and more dedicated organization," said Gerardo Ablaza Jr, chair of Innove Communications at the new company's launch held recently at the Grand Ballroom of the Intercontinental Hotel in Makati.

Innove Communications is the name of Globe Telecom's new subsidiary serving the wireline business. Innove literally means "I innovate" in Spanish, and as its name implies, Innove Communications Inc has positioned itself as an exceptional and dedicated wireline voice and data company that delivers highly innovative total communications solutions for its customers.

"Innove Communications is Globe Telecom's subsidiary serving voice, private data network, Internet needs of individuals and enterprises in the Philippines. What we have done is to transfer and integrate our wireline networks and operations into this company," added Ablaza.


GLOBE chair Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, Innove Communications CEO Gil Genio and Globe president and CEO and Innove chair Gerardo Ablaza Jr.

"Innove has everything going for it as a company. We are financially strong with more than P24 billion in assets, P8 billion in revenues and P2 billion in annual operating income, and zero debt. Clearly, the winning elements that no other carrier can match," said Gil B. Genio. With Genio at the helm, Innove now confidently pursues its own business directions to make a mark in the industry.

And to launch Innove Communications, Globe Telecom threw a grand party with soulful singer Ana Fegi keeping the guests and employees who came out to enjoy the night enthralled. Accompanying Ana Fegi's singing was the music of the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra members.

Seen among those enjoying the good food and great wine were ABS-CBN's Ces Drilon, Globe president and CEO and Innove chair Gerardo Ablaza Jr, ABC 5's Mike Toledo, Ericsson Philippines VP Hans Josef Brueggen, and Singapore Telecom's Chin Lock Chock.

Also seen were Grace Castillo, Innove's wireline data marketing head, Oakwood's Al Legaspi, BOI's Masaharu Tamaki, and Intercontinental Hotel's Carmela Bocanegra. Globe SVP for corporate and regulatory affairs Rodolfo Salalima shared pleasantries with NTC Commissioner Armi Jane Borje, Deputy Commissioners Jorge Sarmiento and Kathleen Heceta, and DOTC Undersecretary Virgilio Pena.

ABS-CBN FOUNDATION
PROVEN NATIONWIDE

GLOBE, ABS-CBN REACH OUT TO PAMPANGA

In line with its commitment to support the youth and as part of its responsibility as a good corporate citizen, Globe Telecom, in partnership with the ABS-CBN Foundation Inc (AFI), donated educational infrastructure to Porac Central School in Pampanga. The donation consisted of a 21-inch TV set, VHS player, and 70 volumes of educational materials. Shown at center are Zen Dimalanta, E-media program director of AFI and Joe Anthony Gayoi, regional head, Globe Telecom business center with the students of Porac Central School in Pampanga.

mobile
PROVEN NATIONWIDE!

TOUCH MOBILE PARTNERS WITH PUREFOODS

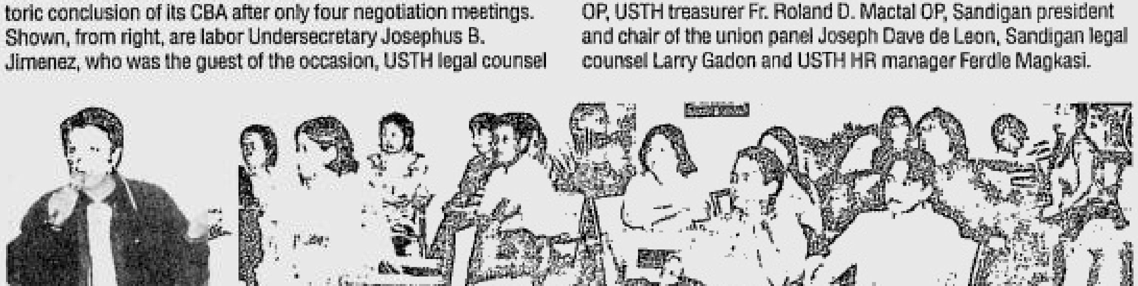
Touch Mobile, the GSM brand preferred by Filipino families, has come up with another value-added treat for the family through its partnership with Purefoods Hormel Company. Until Nov. 30, buyers of a Touch Mobile Super Family 64K SIM or a Super Value SIM, now priced at only P140 and P99, respectively, are entitled to three free Moby Jumbo Hotdog sandwiches. These may be redeemed from participating Purefoods Tender Juicy Hotdog stalls found in selected malls, theme parks, convenience stores, and schools nationwide until Jan. 30, 2004. Present during the contract signing are, from left, Joyce Capacillo, Touch Mobile head of acquisition, Ana de Villa-Singson, Globe Telecom vice president for Touch Mobile, Reginald Baylosis, Purefoods Hormel Co assistant vice president, and Mia Angela Alentajan, product manager.

ROL ME WEEKEND IN TAGAYTAY

The Reaching Out for the Lord (ROL) Marriage Encounter (ME) series of Tuklasan Sector, Marriage Encounter Foundation of the Philippines, successfully conducted another weekend seminar in Tagaytay City Sept. 5 to 7, at the Angels' Hills Retreat and Formation Center. The next ME weekend seminar (ROL 19) will be held from Dec. 12 to 14 at the same venue. For advance reservations, call Troy-Vina Inciong at 633-1838, 633-6177 to 78, Freddie-Rachel de Leon at 536-8451 or 0917-8488736, Gerry-Gina Martinez at 871-5141 or 0918-9119680, Dong-Ernie Lalic at 0918-9280293, and Ricky-Marissa Manalo at 0920-9059697 or 0920-9201045. Deadline for registrations/reservations is on Dec. 5.

USTH MANAGEMENT, UNION SIGN CBA IN 4

The UST Hospital recently signed its 2003-2008 collective bargaining agreement with the Sandigan ng mga Manggagawa sa UST Hospital at the Emerald Garden Restaurant following a historic conclusion of its CBA after only four negotiation meetings. Shown, from right, are labor Undersecretary Josephus B. Jimenez, who was the guest of the occasion, USTH legal counsel Pablo R. Cruz, USTH HR director and chair of the management panel Carlito S. Villanueva, chair of the USTH governing board Fr. Juan V. Ponce OP, USTH officer-in-charge Sis. Lydia V. Arcader OP, USTH treasurer Fr. Roland D. Mactal OP, Sandigan president and chair of the union panel Joseph Dave de Leon, Sandigan legal counsel Larry Gadon and USTH HR manager Ferdie Magkasi.



BAZAAR AT PICC FORUM

Dominador 'Boy' Santos, Maresville organizer, addresses some issues brought up by exhibitors during the marketing presentation and site (PICC Forum) ocular visit at the Amorsolo Restaurant at the PICC Complex. Considered as the finest shopping event of the season, the International Christmas Bazaar slated from Dec. 12 to 25 boasts of the biggest gathering of the country's foremost manufacturers, traders and entrepreneurs. For inquiries, call 241-0674 or 241-0694.

NMPI committed to service campaign

NISSAN Motor Philippines Inc (NMPI) announced recently its sincere commitment to customer satisfaction and its adherence to the protection of consumer rights through the service campaign it will implement parallel with Nissan Motor Ltd's worldwide "recall" campaign.

"Recalls are not extraordinary occurrences in the automotive industry," Leman Lee, president and chief executive officer of NMPI, points out. "In fact every car manufacturer especially the major players has had their share of recalls in the interest of consumer protection. Nissan is not alone."

NMPI emphasized that the service campaign will begin as soon as complete details regarding vehicles to be recalled is finalized. Only few batches of the Sentra 1.5 and 1.6 produced between May 2001 and July 2002 may be affected by the parts recall but it has yet to determine exactly how many units are involved. All other Nissan vehicle assembled or distributed locally by NMPI are not affected.

"We should not jump into the conclusion that a large number of the vehicles in question are going to be included," explains Vir Diwa, vice president for sales and marketing at NMPI. "It is very possible that only a small number of the Sentras assembled here in the Philippines between May 2001 and July 2002 may be affected. The part in question was manufactured in several batches over a period of time. If a defective batch was found, it does not necessarily reflect on the quality level of the rest. NML overseas service department has yet to identify the exact models affected based on engine number."

NMPI also reiterated that its best selling Nissan X-Trail, Cefiro, Serena, Verita and the Sentra 1.3 GX are not included in the "recall" announcement.

"The locally assembled Nissan X-Trail and Sentra 1.3 GX are not in the list, since they were produced at dates outside the range of the "recall" period. The X-Trail started production in June 2003, while the Sentra GX was first produced in November 2002," explains Jon Gutierrez, service and customer relations manager at NMPI. "Moreover, the Cefiro, Serena and Verita are also not included simply because they use different engines."

An electronic sensing device used by the engine computer management system may diminish in performance when the engine's higher temperature causes the heat to penetrate the plastic resin casing, thereby causing weak electrical conduction. As a result, erratic engine performance may happen in a few isolated cases.

The world's third largest Japanese automaker also said the "recall" is merely a term used by the Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport to describe a "bringing of vehicles to an authorized dealer or service center for inspection and possible replacement of an affected part."

"This needs to be clarified because of the public's misimpression of the word 'recall' and the negative feelings attached to it," says Diwa. "In this particular case we are doing a parts service campaign that will involve the inspection of all affected vehicles, and if needed the replacement of the part in question free of charge."

NMPI, through its authorized dealers, after prior public announcement as well as direct information to affected customers, will implement a service campaign based on the guidelines and standards of Nissan Motor Ltd Japan.

Bits & Clips

PDS week

THE PHILIPPINE Dermatological Society (PDS) is celebrating the 4th National Skin Disease Detection and Prevention Week from Nov. 9 to 15. The activity was officially endorsed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo through Proclamation No 110. With the theme "Balat…Alagaan Laban sA sakiT," the nationwide celebration aims to uplift the Filipinos' health status through patient education and early skin disease detection and prevention using proper dermatological care. This includes lectures on basic care for healthy skin, hair and nails as well as free clinics in selected barangay health centers and schools nationwide. On Nov. 11, the National Support Association for Psoriasis Patients Inc. will have its general assembly and annual resident's research forum at the Astoria Plaza, and the 1st Leprosy Forum at the Unilab Complex will be on Nov. 12. The celebration highlights the Society's 12th Annual Convention on Nov. 13 and 14 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City. For more information, call the PDS secretariat at 727-7309, or log on to www.pds.org.ph.

Tax seminar

EXPRESS Tax Help of the Philippines Inc, a subsidiary of Express Tax Help of California, will conduct a whole-day seminar for US taxpayers who wish to file their income tax returns while in the Philippines. This seminar is also intended for those who want to learn about e-filing. The seminar will be held at the Quezon City Sports Club, E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City, on Nov. 11. The following topics will be discussed during the seminar: filing of US tax returns electronically, and relevant US tax laws. Participants will have hands-on computer practice in e-filing. For more details, call 727-7881 or 0916-4691882, or visit Unit 101, PCC Building, 90 Balete Drive Extension, Quezon City.

MLQU Alumni homecoming

ALL TAU Rho Xi alumni of Manuel L. Quezon University are invited to an alumni homecoming this December. For more details, call Boy at 528-0876/78, Toks at 0919-6060999, Roger at 0917-4553838 or Ador at 0917-6955010.

ProductFILES

Fashion is nothing without people

RE-THINK your perception of fashion as the flagship store of Grotto S.p.A.'s GAS Clothing brand enters Manila's shores. The brand, brought in by Nike Park's progressive company, Black Cat Inc, will be opening at the second floor of the new and posh Greenbelt 4 area on Nov. 12.

Grotto S.p.A. is a fast-growing innovative Italian company (based in Chiuppano in the heart of northeastern Italy) that introduced GAS Clothing to the market in 1986. Founded by Claudio Grotto, the company lives by a philosophy of positive thinking, functionality, practicality, "non-waste" and simplicity. This philosophy is carried further into the brand's motto: "Keep It Simple."

Under this motto proudly stands the GAS "double rainbow" logo, which resonates the real-life experiences and work of Claudio Grotto. The logo emanates nature itself, having been discovered by Claudio on one of his many adventures on the South African plains. Watching the two great oceans meet-the Atlantic and Indian-in Capetown, this natural phenomenon gave him the creative symbol, which from then on became GAS's distinctive mark.

The international brand has currently integrated its presence in 35 different countries. The brand's "Re-think" concept is integrated in its stores as it walks the consumer through a unique experience filled with surprises. Dressing the GAS way means giving attention to practicality, taste and detail. Jeanswear and Basic is the company's core business. It represents fresh, young denim and a casual soul.

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Mnte Vista 500m 4.5M 6471201

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★ RUSH Valley Golf ★ 1973m² @4M 0916-4834182

Rush Sale! Owner Leaving Parkhills Subd. Antipolo 198m² Lot 3.2K/m² Neg. 0919-6651249

BATANGAS

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HOLYCROSS 4LOTS 9272640

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RESORT

Pansol Hot Spring priv 7767507

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CONDO/TWNHSE

PASIG

1Wilson 2BR 20T 4121825

★Ortigas 2BR Condo/UnF 412-1825

MANILA

2BR NR LA SALLE 1BR MABINI COR P.GIL 2558666 09189382922

APARTMENT

KALOOCAN

2BR up/down behind U.E. (0918)557-8390 Tess

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MANILA

Apt 7841746/6682108

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO P3.8 LADY 9124428

ROOM & BOARD

P'QUE P150 / 12hrs 827-5345

Pr]3 new 3.5T studio9137513

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BEDSPACE

Male 913-0403 Cubao Ernie

BUSINESS RENTAL

ORTIGAS CTR @250 60 110 130 150m² 412-1825

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2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

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Ortigas/Makati Grd/Upper 30:90;130:260:1.250m² P200-700/m² 6337601-03

Table Space nr UST 7361167

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HOUSE & LOT

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Rent P50,000+VAT+Dues

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1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% W/O TAKING CAR 6567685

2% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BUY/SELL

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MALE/FEMALE

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Department of Health
Center for Health Development III
Bataan General Hospital
MARIVELES MENTAL WARD
Mariveles, Bataan

SIGLA

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY/APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Health - Mariveles Mental Ward, Mariveles, Bataan, is inviting contractors registered, accredited and classified as Small A for buildings to prequalify/ apply for eligibility and to bid for the following project:

Project : Proposed Repair of Doctor's Quarters' Building and Improvement of Drainage System of Mariveles Mental Ward
Location : Mariveles, Bataan

Prequalification/Eligibility forms will be available to contractors with the above mentioned PCAB classification upon submission of Letter of Intent and latest PCAB/ IACC license to the BAC Chairman at the Administrative Office, Mariveles Mental Ward, Mariveles, Bataan. Original copies of PCAB/IACC license must be presented for authentication.

The schedule of activities is as follows

1. Deadline for the submission of Letter of Intent	November 12, 2003
2. Submission of Eligibility Statements	November 14, 2003
3. Listing of Eligible Contractors	November 18, 2003
4. Issuance of Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php1,000.00	November 21, 2003
5. Pre-bid Conference at the MMW conference room, Mariveles, Bataan	November 24, 2003 at 9:00 A.M.
6. Submission of Bids/Tender Documents at the MMW conference room	December 3, 2003 not later than 9:30 A.M.
7. Opening of Bids	December 3, 2003 at 10:00 A.M.

For further inquiries, please call the BAC at Tel. No. (047) 935-4613

The DOH-MMW reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality herein and/or accept such bids or offers that may be considered most advantageous to the government.

Mariveles, Bataan
November 7, 2003

(Sgd.) **MANUEL P. PONCE, MD, CHA, CESe**
OIC - Chief of Hospital III

(PDI--Nov. 10 & 11, 2003)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Region V, Legazpi City

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals for the purchase of the properties below will be received at the Office of the Branch Head, Land Bank of the Philippines, Legazpi Branch, Legazpi City, not later than **December 5, 2003**, 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
Lidong, Sto. Domingo, Albay	Two (2) parcels of industrial lot with total area of 20,766 sq.m.	P3,199,600.00
Lidong, Sto. Domingo, Albay	One (1) parcel of industrial lot with an area of 11,689 sq.m.	P4,773,800.00
Lidong, Sto. Domingo, Albay	One (1) parcel of industrial lot with an area of 11,689 sq.m.	P4,374,600.00

Landbank reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any formality found therein or accept the bid proposal which in its judgment is most advantageous to the Bank. The Bank's decision on the matter shall be final and binding.

Any winning bid amount in excess of minimum bid shall be subject to 10% additional VAT.

For inquiries, please call: (052) 480-6887; (052) 245-5710; (052) 245-5706 (fax)

(Sgd.) **ROGELIO G. DECAL**
Vice President

(PDI-November 10, 17 & 24, 2003)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

OFC. MKTG.STAFF 18-45yrs old col. level/grad 9950025 Marlene

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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

NATION PAWNSHOP, INC., Poblacion, Meyc. Bulacan will auction unredeemed pledges of May '03 on Nov. 24, '03 10am, Lanuza & Sons
(PDI-November 08, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late TIRSO C. LLAMAS, consisting of conjugal share over Manila Memorial Park Cemetery Lots, Paranaque City referred as Lots ABCD Block 133, V-Garden of Angels, was adjudicated to his sole and only heir and surviving spouse, Amparo San Luis Llamas by means of a public document executed on Aug. 24, 2003 and ratified before Atty. Federico Florendo, Jr., Notary Public for and in Las Pinas City, Metro Manila, and entered into his Notarial Registry as Doc. No. 179; Page No. 37; Book No. 2; Series of 2003 (PDI-Oct. 27, Nov. 3 & 10, 2003)

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of our Beloved Mother

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A. BAÑARES

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Invitation to Pre-Qualify and Bid

The LTO Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) is inviting all reputable Contractors to Pre-qualify and bid for CY 2004 Security Services.

Prospective bidders are required to submit the following pre-qualification requirements to the Office of the Chairman, BAC, Sub-Committee, Property Section on or before November 18, 2003;

1. Name, address and telephone number of Company;
2. Registration Papers and Certificate of Accreditation from DTI;
3. Mayor's Permit and/or license to operate for the current year;
4. 2001 and 2002 Financial Statement;
5. SEC Articles of Incorporation. In case of Single Proprietorship, Registration Papers from DTI;
6. Certified True Copy of 2001 and 2002 Income Tax Return and BIR Official Receipt of Payment;
7. Track Record. List of Clients served for at least three (3) years;
8. BIR VAT Certificate;
9. A bidder should not have any interest/ownership with other companies/supplier and therefore must submit only one (1) bid. Sister companies will be disqualified in the bidding proper.

Pre-bidding conference will be on November 25, 2003 and bidding proper will be on December 4, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. at the LTO Library, East Avenue, Quezon City.

The LTO neither assumes any obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of their bid nor does it guarantee that award will be made.

The LTO reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, ban any bidder with unsatisfactory and derogatory track record. LTO may award the aforesaid projects to any contractor whose proposal as evaluated by the LTO-BAC is most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) ATTY. PERCIVAL A. CENDAÑA
BAC, Chairman

(PDI--Nov. 10, 2003)

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED RURAL BANK OF PULILAN (Bulacan), INC.

1. Starting November 10, 2003, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) thru its duly authorized representatives shall receive claims for insured deposits maintained with the closed Rural Bank of Pulilan (Bulacan), Inc.

2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to the premises of the said closed bank from November 10 to December 18, 2003, to file claims for insured deposits.

   PDIC representatives are stationed at the premises of the closed bank on the above cited dates to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors during office hours, Monday to Friday.

   After the said dates, all depositors can file their claims personally at the PDIC Office from Monday to Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., or by mail addressed to:

   The Manager
   Claims Processing Department
   Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
   2228 Chino Roces Avenue
   1231 Makati City

3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims:

   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and/or Bank Statement and/or Certificate of Time Deposits.

   b. Valid identification documents (ID) bearing the depositor's signature.

   Other documents may be required by the PDIC representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.

4. Pursuant to the provision of R.A. 3591, as amended, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of Pulilan (Bulacan) is on **March 26, 2005.** After **March 26, 2005,** PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI-Nov. 10 & 11, 2003)

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CALAUAG DONATION
Mayor Pedro Inofre (right) and engineer Louie S. Visorde (in striped shirt) are shown handing a box of noodles, courtesy of Monde Nissin and Edu Manzano, to a resident recently of Calauag, Quezon. Inofre and Visorde handed out more boxes of Nissin noodles to residents of some 10 barangays during a socio-economic project at the town's far-flung barangay.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL TOBACCO ADMINISTRATION
Scout Reyes Street, corner Panay Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. No. 372-3185; Fax No. 373-2095

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL TOBACCO ADMINISTRATION (NTA), through its Disposal Committee, invites interested parties to pre-qualify and to bid for the disposal/sale, on a "Lot-Stock and Barrel Basis" of its Golden Leaf Village situated at Bo. San Isidro, Rodriguez, Rizal.

The Golden Leaf Village has a total land area of 83,513 square meters, with a net saleable area of 54,193 square meters and 91 units of houses.

Minimum Bid is, as follows:

Lot – P2,250.00 per square meter
Houses – P25 Million, lump sum (91 units) on an "as-is-where-is basis"

The eligibility requirements are available for issuance to interested parties on 11 November 2003 at the Administrative Department, 3rd Floor, NTA Bldg., at the above address. The deadline for the submission of pre-qualification documents shall be on or before the close of office hours on 21 November 2003.

Eligible Bidders shall be notified thru formal letters, of the date and time of public bidding. The Instruction to Bidders and the Bid Forms will be issued only to Eligible Bidders upon payment of a non-refundable Bidding Fee of Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000.00).

The NTA reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part/s, thereof, without offering any reason, waive any defects contained in any of the bid/s submitted and/or accept the offer most advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) MAMERTO E. ELLORIN
Chairman, Disposal Committee

(PDI-Nov. 10, 2003)

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Editor Leo Magno

Sun exec says Microsoft should open source code to developers

By Leo Magno

WITH THE INCREASING number of attacks and security breaches on its products, software giant Microsoft Corp. should open the source code of all its products to the developer community instead of trying to solve the problem internally.

This was the view of Simon Phipps, chief technology evangelist of Sun Microsystems.

Inquirer Infotech asked Phipps how he would run Microsoft's business if he were working for the Redmond, Washington-based company as its chief software architect, the position held by Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates.

"I would open up the code of Microsoft software to the developer community," said Phipps, in the context of the increasing use of open source computing. "They're trying to solve the bugs themselves when what they should be doing is use open source methodology to improve security."

"Microsoft is in more trouble than anyone else because they have an architecture that's prone to attacks," said Phipps.

Phipps said that many people still have misconceptions about open source computing, and that it should be seen in the proper context before being judged merely as malleable freeware.

"Open source is a methodology, not a price tag," he said. "It's all about commons-based peer production, where a group of developers work together to develop what they need for their respective businesses."

Contrary to popular opinion, said Phipps, open source entails structured and controlled development and is not run by irresponsible, anonymous programmers who do not feel accountable for their creations. He said open source computing is not a chaotic online adventure where anarchy rules in the exchange of source codes to create Frankenstein software.

"It's not dictated by the hippie group or any group at all," he said. "Your programming abilities allow you to participate in open source development. Your participation is not based on your employment status."

In open source computing, said Phipps, the license does not matter. Instead, "agile software development" is the key benefit of open source because the community works for the common good.

"This is what Microsoft should be doing because they are being attacked now more than ever," he said. "Security is a prime concern, and instead of patching those holes themselves, they should let others look into the problem and let others help them fix it."

PHIPPS

3Com solution promises 200% boost in network performance

By Abigail L. Ho

VOICE and data networking firm 3Com Corp. is targeting telecommunications firms and other large enterprise clients for a new local area network (LAN) core technology that could increase network performance by up to 200 percent.

3Com's eXpandable Resilient Networking (XRN) technology is a two-switch set-up managed as a single logical entity, making its back-up switch also part of the main networking operations.

This way, a company's back-up switch can be utilized and optimized even during normal operations and not just in the event of a disaster.

"In XRN, there are two switches: one primary and one back-up," 3Com country manager Kenneth Palacios said. "But both are being used in operations, so the other switch doesn't just serve as a back-up. With both switches working together, a firm gets 200 percent performance."

The nature of the new technology makes it ideal for telecom firms, large enterprise clients, banks, educational institutions and government agencies that usually have huge amounts of stored data and multiple sites of operations.

XRN fabrics can be geographically distributed for disaster recovery, with the switches placed at a distance of up to 70 kilometers away from each other.

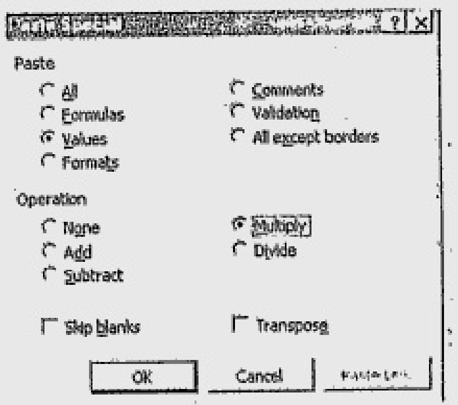
Palacios says the XRN switches are "self-healing" in the sense that either of them can go back to its set configurations in the event of a disaster. This minimizes human intervention.

Although shipped only in September, 3Com already has around 10 clients for its XRN offering, said Palacios. These include the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Philippine Senate, De La Salle University, Miriam College, Splash Corp., GMA Network Inc., Planters Bank, Aboitiz Jebsens, the World Health Organization's Western Pacific region offices, and call center ACS.

Apart from the XRN technology, 3Com has also expanded its range of wide area network (WAN) router solutions with the introduction of the 3Com Router 5000 family.

This is part of the company's thrust to offer open standards-based solutions to meet the enterprise customers' need for end-to-end infrastructure, applications and network management.

"Enterprise customers, channel partners and managed services providers are increasingly expressing frustration with over-priced approaches and proprietary roadblocks that increase total cost of ownership," Palacios said. "3Com offers a new choice of the most competitive, state-of-the-art router solution to enable CIOs and network managers to enhance business network functionality, increase efficiency and help improve a company's bottom line."



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● Values
○ Formats
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○ All except borders

Operation
○ None
○ Add
○ Subtract
● Multiply
○ Divide

☐ Skip blanks
☐ Transpose

Increasing values in Excel with Paste Special command

POWERTIPS

By Jerry Liao

IF you need to change the values in a group of cells by a certain amount or percentage, you can easily do it using Microsoft Excel's Paste Special command. Heres how:

1) For example, you want to increase the values in cells A5:A20 by 25 percent.

2) Go to any blank cell and type ".25" then click on the "Copy" button.

3) Select the cells containing the values you want to change, in this case, cell A5:A20.

4) Go to the "Edit" menu and select "Paste Special."

5) On the "Paste Special" dialog box, select "Values," then "Multiply" and then click on "OK."

6) You can also perform the same trick using Addition, Subtraction, and Division.

For more tips, visit www.brainshare.com.ph.

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Pinoy suspect in Internet credit card fraud released

Three Filipinos are accused of using stolen credit cards to make purchases at a Hong Kong-based website. Bank records later traced the accounts to American citizens.

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

ONE of the suspects in the case involving three Filipinos allegedly using stolen credit cards to make purchases at a Hong Kong-based website was ordered released by Philippine courts.

Zandro del Pilar, a resident of Quezon City, was released following an order from a local court that said there was not enough evidence to detain him, National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) agent Filbert Manaug told Infotech.

Manaug said the NBI will be conducting further investigation on Del Pilar who was implicated in the case by another suspect, Marichu Villegas, his common law wife.

The NBI arrested Del Pilar, Villegas and Dante Castro based on a complaint filed by Paul Hubbard, country manager of Total Solutions Software, a firm running the YesPinoy.com website.

The suspects were allegedly ordering "Smart Money" cards through YesPinoy.com using stolen credit card information. The suspects asked that the Smart Money cards be delivered to a person who was later found to be using false identification.

YesPinoy.com allows people from abroad to send money to their families back in the Philippines using Smart Money cards.

The Smart Money cards, which operate like debit cards, were used by the suspects which gave authorities more evidence against them, said Hubbard.

Hubbard said the website had monitored "unusual activities" in its transaction records starting Oct. 16, 2003.

On Oct. 26, YesPinoy.com reported the case to the NBI after gathering enough evidence to entrap them.

During an entrapment operation, Castro—posing as a certain "Tony Perez"—was arrested. His arrest led the authorities to Villegas, and alleged mastermind Del Pilar.

Villegas implicated Del Pilar, saying Del Pilar was supplying her the stolen credit card information used to purchase the Smart Money cards.

Hubbard said that the suspects were able to defraud YesPinoy.com of about P15,000.

"This seems small but this is because we caught them early. They could have gotten more," Hubbard local reporters.

The suspects were charged with violating Republic Act 8484 on credit card fraud, the Electronic Commerce Act of 2000, and falsification of public records, the NBI officials said.

The suspects were presented in a press conference at the NBI Manila headquarters.

Both Villegas and Castro are still in the custody of the authorities, said NBI agent Manaug.

Manaug, however, said earlier that the suspects were likely to post bail.

YesPinoy.com acknowledged that it got the cooperation of companies like Smart Communications and Equitable Credit Card Network to pin down the suspects. Both companies provided most of the evidence against the suspects.

Hubbard said that NBI authorities will be digging deeper into the case, with the hope of finding out how the suspects were able to obtain the credit card information.

The suspects were said to have used at least four stolen credit card information that were later traced to American citizens.

Samsung exec: Don't look far beyond RP for growth

By Leo Magno

EOM

WHILE the rest of the world is bullish about the Chinese and Indian markets to tap a combined potential 2.4 billion consumers, the Asian head of Samsung Electronics says companies should not discount the growth potential of countries closer to home.

Samsung Asia Pacific president and CEO Kim Kwang Soo told Infotech that although its size in terms of sales volume is small compared to India and China, the Philippine market remains a vibrant one for Samsung.

"The Philippines is the fastest-growing market in my region," said Kim who lists under his areas of responsibility countries such as India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Australia, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and the Philippines.

"I can't deny that India and China are the two biggest markets in Asia-Pacific. China's gross domestic product has been growing 7 to 10 percent for the past 10 years, while India has been growing a steady 6 percent. However, our market position in other countries like the Philippines and Indonesia is growing even faster."

The Philippines, Kim said, is a good example. He said Samsung's growth in the country has more than doubled since last year on the heels of strong color television and monitor sales.

Kim said the increased brand awareness and Asian acceptance of Samsung products have helped the company stave off threats from the likes of Westerners such as Dell which are trying to tap into the Asian digital lifestyle market. Samsung has also been holding its own against Europeans in the mobile phone space.

"I don't know if they (Americans and Europeans) are truly focusing on the Asian market," Kim said. "We have always focused on the mid to high-end product levels, and consequently our selling price sometimes becomes higher than that of Western companies focusing on Asia. But acceptance and trust of the Samsung brand is there. And even if European manufacturers say they're focusing on Asia, 80 percent of their products are sold in Europe."

Kim said that even though Samsung is producing high-end products, the Philippines is not lagging behind when it comes to product releases. This despite the Philippine market's general choice of affordable products and the price wars which eventually occur.

"In the Philippines, we are going to introduce high-end products as decided by the Philippine office," Kim said.

To this, Samsung Electronics Philippines president and CEO Sang-Youl Eom added: "We are not focusing on low-end. We will continue with our strategy in the Philippines and not lower price and engage in price wars."

Eom said the Filipino's buying power is not increasing, and so Samsung Philippines is working at eating away the market share of its local competitors.

"But I'm still hungry," Eon said. "Increasing market share is important, but increasing the quality of market share is important as well."

Kim said the Philippine market's growth has impressed him enough to commit at least a 50-percent increase in investment in Samsung Philippines next year.

Eom revealed that Samsung Philippines' advertising and promotions budget would increase to $10 million next year compared to last year's $7 million.

"We will also increase our customer satisfaction centers and aim at reducing customer complaints by half," Eom said.

Cebu wants to become ICT hub

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

CEBU—The local government and private sector groups from the information and communications technology (ICT) sector here are gradually transforming this city into the country's hub for ICT, dropping earlier goals of being just an alternative to Metro Manila.

According to executives of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), the business sector and several industry organizations are currently consolidating various ICT initiatives to realize this objective.

"An ICT working group is working on a similar model like the Information Technology and E-commerce Council (ITECC). This organization is at the stage of consolidating pockets of ICT initiatives in both government and private sector," said Jovy Hernandez, corporate business head of PLDT's corporate business in the Visayas region during a briefing.

The industry working group is composed of representatives from government agencies like the Board of Investments and the National Computer Center, and ICT organizations like the CyberPromdi and Cebu Education Development for Information Technology.

The Cebu-based group was organized in light of the increase of foreign direct investments in the city, the PLDT executive said.

Hernandez said that Cebu now stands to benefit from the boom of the call center industry in the Philippines, as the city becomes one of the preferred locations of its expansions within the country.

PeopleSupport and Sykes, for instance, have established operations in Cebu as an extension of their operations in Metro Manila, the PLDT executive said. There are now a total of 15 contact centers in Cebu, and 10 more are expected to come in next year, he added.

Other companies engaged in business process outsourcing, software development, animation and medical transcription have also contributed to the growth of ICT in Cebu.

"I believe that 30 percent of the reasons of the growth in the economy here comes from ICT-related investments," Hernandez said.

The demand for broadband Internet, virtual private networks, and international leased lines in Cebu have also increased with the entry of call center service providers in the city, another Cebu-based PLDT official said.

The telephone company, for its part, is now aggressively pushing its products and solutions in Cebu, which are dominated by rival Globe subsidiary Innove.

This is in anticipation of the increasing demand for technology solutions coming from foreign companies setting up operations in the city, Hernandez said.

"Before, PLDT was admittedly very myopic about the prospects in Cebu. We were complacent. That's why we've recently been assigned to Cebu in a move to take over market share from competitors," Hernandez said.

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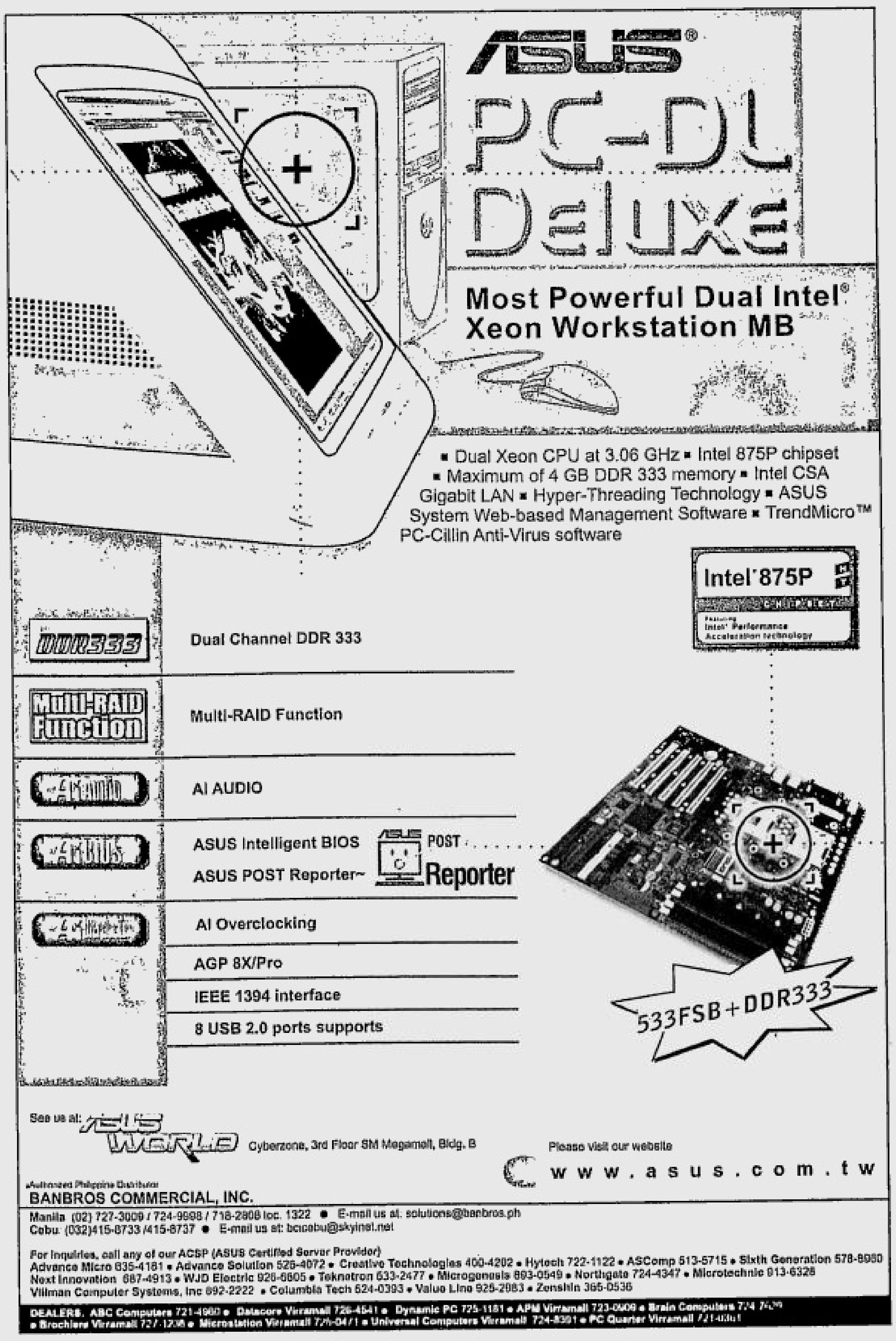
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Top 3 Winners

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Borromeo & asc

Elizabeth Tan
Citrine

Debbie Borromeo
Blue Pearl

Level 3 Producer category

Gwendolyn Pardo
Blue Pearl

Jeffrey Tan
Blue Pearl

Marites Modina
Blue Pearl

Ma. Teresa Mendoza
Ruby

Anna Liza Valarao
Chrysolite

Loreta Chio
China Jade

Katherine Yap
Blue Pearl

Marcial Tuanqui Jr.
Blue Sapphire

Pedro Lim
China Jade

Bernadette Tad-Y
Blue Pearl

Ma. Lourdes Yap
Blue Pearl

Marie Dakay
Blue Pearl

Joel Ortega
Diamond

Lawrence Yu
Borromeo & asc

Edwin Gocuan
Blue Pearl

Gina Marie Saw
Mica

Jonash Go
China Jade

Francia Canlas
Blue Sapphire

Benigno Tabago
Alambay & asc

Anthonette Mahinay
Blue Pearl

Darwin Andrey
Tektite

Juliana Tenajeros
Bloodstone

Nelia Tumarao
Iolite

Ruby Gomez
Carnelian

Level 2 Producer category

Henson Dave Tan	China Jade	**Cristina Go**	China Jade
Monserrat Suria	Jasper	**Miraculo Galacio**	Blue Pearl
Marie Jocelyn Cang	Blue Pearl	**Rowena Miclat**	Clemente
Zenaida Amio	Azurite	**Rhea Roxane Tacder**	Blue Pearl
Ma. Aisa Villacorta	Diamond	**Myrna Valdez**	Gold
Emmanuel Atillo	Blue Pearl	**Sara Cristina Tiambeng**	Coral
Romerico Formoso	Jasper	**Franco Claridad**	Beryl
Rodrigo Ragaza	Blue Pearl	**Sonia Albano**	Diamond
Nila Dacanay	Citrine	**Alexis Natividad**	Star of Asia
Leah Alvarado	Citrine	**Aileen Gaffud**	Crystal Quartz
Cheryl Lynn Martinez	Diamond	**Aurora Natividad**	Star of Asia
Barbara Anne Gonzalez	Azurite	**Ma Carmela Estacio**	Mercury
Lydia Mannag	Nephrite	**Gerard Patrick Hortillo**	Red Onyx
Marilou Vargas	Carnelian	**Rosinni Llamado**	Red Onyx
Melody Cimafranca	Blue Pearl	**Peter Delatore**	Blue Pearl
Ma. Cristina Suarez	Blue Pearl	**Ma. Arlene Jumangit**	Mica

Level 1 Producer category

John-John Grio	Rose Quartz	**Leah Santiago**	Diamond
Diosdado Crisostomo	Buenvenida	**Mary Ann Latonio**	Blue Pearl
Leonida Escosia	Riverstone	**Belen Lourdes Aritao**	Ruby
Nilda Bagtas	Baluyot	**Ma. Evelyn Gaytano**	Ruby
Lourdes Ines Ramos	Diamond	**Daria Lyn Bau**	Azurite
Margarita Gina Litan	Carnelian	**Belina Mendoza**	Coral
Julio Chua	Ruby	**Gilbert Chua**	Mica
Maribel Chavez	Pink Zircon	**Gemma Lyn Sih**	China Jade
Loyne Sardon	Blue Pearl	**Tak Shing Bok**	Mica
Connie Bayaborda	Jasper	**Leticia Lo**	Lo
Irene Go	Blue Pearl	**Samuel Talaboc**	Borromeo
Ma. Luisa Alunan	Jasper	**Ma. Angeles Barbaza**	Nephrite
Joel Payad	Azurite	**Mark Allan Ching**	Diamond
Bernard Dimayuga	Ruby	**Cynthia Velasco**	Aragonite
Artemio Wapanio	Blue Pearl	**Raul Coronado**	Tektite
Merlita Adaza	Star of Asia	**Ma. Olga Rosario Antigua**	Mica
Diosdado Castro	Azurite	**Dennis De Guia**	Diamond
Antonio Mannag	Nephrite	**Sheila Baluyut**	Azurite
Nelva Monterroyo	Smithsonite	**Rebecca Buguet**	Charoite
Vicente Bass Jr.	Star of Asia	**Archie Bau**	Azurite
Rizalina Gonzalez	Blue Pearl	**Tessie Go Que**	China Jade
Chu Eng Si	China Jade	**Marites Jamili**	Rose Quartz
Glenn Glorioso	Jasper	**Emilie Pagulo**	Baluyot
Fredricka Callueng	Jasper	**Lyneth Corpin**	Blue Pearl
Edgardo Pesigan	Carnelian	**Marilou Huang Peir Pyng**	China Jade
Caridad Manabat	Jasper	**Juliet Ku**	Amethyst
Dolly Jane Bok	Mica	**Teresita Balagot**	Tektite
Yvette Paras	Azurite	**Sandra Holaysan**	Mica
Marilyn Suello	Coloma	**Anita Gutierrez**	Sodalite
Ed Dante Latonio	Blue Pearl	**Luther Michael Magallano**	Blue Pearl
Sherna Tongol	Azurite	**Michael Ocampo**	Azurite
Rafael Asprer Jr.	Blue Pearl	**Annabelle Lagamayo**	China Jade
Cornelio Pahang	Blue Pearl	**Gloria Vale**	Star of Asia
Aurelio Cifra	Jasper	**Dimpna Castigador**	Pink Zircon
Arleen Fraginal	Ruby	**Diosdado Ponla**	Bloodstone
Sonia Tancinco	Blue Pearl	**Michael Cimafranca**	Blue Pearl
Ludovino Cellona	Gold	**Ma. Jorena Roxas**	Mercury
Edna De Roxas	Jasper	**Ma. Jonnah Nubla**	Amethyst
		Isidro Laygo Jr.	Carnelian

Unit Manager category

Katherine Yap	Blue Pearl
Edwin Gocuan	Blue Pearl

Branch Manager category

Henry Gocuan	Blue Pearl
Tess Koa	China Jade
Elias dela Rosa	Azurite

Penang Challenge

BRANCH MANAGERS

Henry Gocuan	Blue Pearl
Jimmy Barba	Mica
Tess Koa	China Jade
Che Martinez	Diamond
Jojo Buncayo	Jasper
Myrna Galban	Ruby
Elias dela Rosa	Azurite
Nina Borromeo	Borromeo

UNIT MANAGERS

Edwin Gocuan	Blue Pearl	**Nellie King**	China jade
Katherine Yap	Blue Pearl	**Connie Bayaborda**	Jasper
Joselito Ros	Blue Pearl	**Aurora Natividad**	Star of Asia
Henson Tan	China Jade	**Violeta Ante**	Ruby
Fe Asprer	Blue Pearl		

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Look into pork barrel corruption

By Dennis M. Arroyo
Contributor

IT IS right that the people should scrutinize the Judiciary Development Fund. It is a legitimate public concern. But if those who fight corruption want more interesting material, they should reexamine the issue of pork barrel. It makes for eye-popping reading.

Pork barrel money is currently called the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF). This is allotted to each Representative and Senator, who disburses the manna to his or her constituent areas.

The pork barrel cash does not necessarily reach the local government nor does it enter its budget. If the Congressman and Governor are political opponents, the money flows direct to favored barangays.

Manna from hell

Projects in barangays follow political priorities. Congressmen will select the areas based on their bailiwicks or where they have supporters. They are not inclined to pour PDAF sums into the barangays that opposed them.

Such a practice can result in unfinished projects, as I have fou[illegible] my interviews. A road is half-built during one term, favoring a particular barangay. Then the opposing politician wins in the next election. So he starts constructing other roads in his preferred areas even without completing the first.

Suspect deals are rampant in infrastructure, which involves huge costs. Contracts are supposed to undergo competitive bidding, but crooked bidders secretly agree on the prices. This ensures that the tendered bids are all high, and that all of them get a project.

Rigging the bids

Competitive bidding requires that the invitation to bid is published in the newspapers. However, the favored contractor rushes to buy all the copies available in the area. That is a relatively small outlay compared to the infrastructure project.

Cheating by crooked politicians follows this procedure. The Congressman already has favored contractors, and he passes on the names to collaborators in the Public Works department. In exchange for the deal, the contractor gives him an "SOP" (cut) of 20 percent.

The politician gets the money after the contractor is paid or waits for it during election campaign season. At times the SOP is even granted in advance. This is also called return on political investment or ROPI.

The politicians ride on the official budgeting process. The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) first requests the legislators to submit their list of projects which will be funded by the PDAF. Contractors then deal with the Congress persons and offer their rebates. After negotiations are done, the legislators submit their project lists to the DBM.

The department issues documents like the Special Allotment Release Order. The pertinent agency, like Public Works, conducts the bidding and lets the contractor implement the project. The contractor enjoys the inflated price, while the Congress person and the colluding Public Works branch benefit from the kickbacks.

Even 60 percent kickbacks

All told, such cheating results in expensive highways that scrimp on length or quality. One governor told me that his office could build 5 kilometers of highway using the same money spent by his Congressman for every kilometer.

The kickback ratio may even reach 45 percent of pork barrel, according to former Budget Secretary Salvador Enriquez. But the average is raised by the bigger cuts in non-infrastructure projects like schoolbooks or medicines.

"In most instances, suppliers of these goods automatically set aside 40 to 50 percent of the total budget for the lawmaker and his or her staff," reports the book Pork and Other Perks by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism.

"If the money is intended for the purchase of medicines...the lawmaker can still get a 60-percent rebate even with actual delivery if he or she agrees to receive old supplies," continues the Pork report. "These medicines will usually expire in two or three months."

The book further quotes a source who deals with Congressmen in the sale of educational materials.

"We show the materials sample and then it's straight to `Sir, the discount is 40 percent,'" she says.

Corruption in turn feeds the phenomenon of purchasing votes. Getting campaign donations from their contractors, they hand out money during election time.

Buying votes

The going rate, depending on the resources of the candidate, can range from a low of P100 per head to a high of P1,000. The most common figures cited are P500 to P1,000.

Why are the Congressmen given PDAF when they are legislators? The law includes the Congressman or his or her representative as a member of the local development councils. There are representatives even in the barangay development councils.

It's about time that the people scrutinize the pork barrel spending of their politicians. This is a call for private sector auditors to get involved.

Calling Picpa and JPIA

The Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Picpa) would do the nation a service by examining the books of the members of Congress. They can use the help of the youth as well, via the Junior Philippine Institute of Accountants (JPIA). Raffling names would promote objectivity. Business clubs can help defray the cost by raising funds for some honoraria.

Highway robbery and brazen corruption take place because of pork barrel. Accounting talent is needed to fight it.

Comments to <darroyo @ philonline.com>

Act locally through SIMBY and MSSD

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Corazon PB.Claudio

THINK globally, act locally. That's an advice that environmentalists like me often give others because we have many local issues and concerns, as well as opportunities, that need action. We are now trying to put that advice into practice in the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) through SIMBY and MSSD, our local version of NIMBY and WSSD.

The acronyms NIMBY and WSSD are well known internationally to those involved in environmental protection. NIMBY means Not In My Back Yard, a phrase that communities say when they refuse landfill, incineration or other waste disposal or treatment facilities in their areas.

On the other hand, WSSD refers to the World Summit for Sustainable Development, the major global event held in South Africa in 2002. That event brought together thousands of participants, including heads of state and governments, to focus on conserving natural resources while also improving people's lives.

In MAP, we are now promoting SIMBY instead of NIMBY, and MSSD to localize WSSD, as our means of acting locally toward sustainable development, the type of development that is economically, ecologically and socially sound.

SIMBY or Start In My Back Yard is what we ask MAP members to practice now to initiate the implementation of the MAP GREEN Program. This Program aims to help achieve Growth through Rural communities' Ecologically sound Economic development Nationwide.

Simply put, we want to help our country grow by assisting rural communities, especially natural resource-dependent ones, in developing through environmentally or ecologically sound livelihood projects.

These projects shall apply public-private partnership and proven technologies from government agencies and private companies.

But, we believe we cannot stand on good moral ground in reaching out to rural communities if the communities of MAP members—our residential areas and the communities where the offices and factories of our

MAPPING/ B2-3

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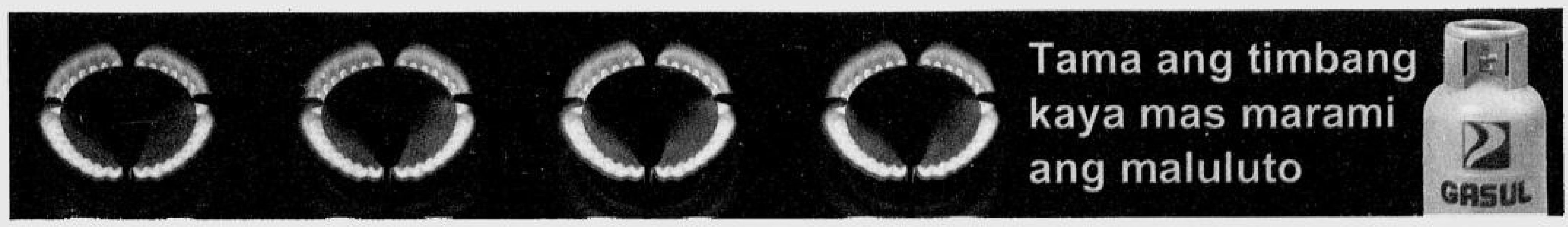

People, Events & Products

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Editor Aries Espinosa

Search for TOWNS '04 awardees launched

THE SEARCH for extraordinary women begins anew. Now on its 29th year, The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service (TOWNS) Awards continues to recognize accomplished women who have pioneered and achieved milestones in their fields-from science, education, agriculture, law, performing arts, communications, public service, cultural integration, rural development, medicine to advocacy on women's and children's rights.

The nationwide search for the 2004 awardees began with the call for nominations, held recently at the Teatro Aguinaldo in Quezon City. The launch was held right after the showing of "Alikabok" (a musical play inspired by Juan Luna's famous painting "La Bulaquena"), produced by 1992 TOWNS awardee for the performing arts Celeste Legaspi-Gallardo. Also invited to enjoy the play were some 300 children from welfare and street centers.

The chair for the TOWNS 2004 Search is Dr. Perla Santos-Ocampo. The awards proper will be held in October 2004.

Founded in 1974 by the late Gov. Manuel G. Alino, the TOWNS Awards is held every three years. Since that time, there have been already 10 awardings, with 115 women nationally recognized. Some of its first awardees were Rosa Rosal, former Senator Leticia Shahani, former Justice Flerida Ruth Romero and Elisa "Boots" Anson-Roa. The awardees organized themselves into the Association of TOWNS Awardees (ATA) in 1977, which in 1995 became a foundation, known today as TOWNS Foundation Inc.

One of the current projects of the foundation is the child to child peace campaign, which aims to create awareness in peace-building, particularly among the youth, through peace workshops for school students. Dr. June P. Lopez, Tessy Ang-See, Dr. Christina Lim-Yuson and Shahani head this project. Other projects in the past include scholarship programs for deserving college students and non-formal vocational training for women.

The TOWNS officers for 2003-2005 are led by Lim-Yuson, president, Dr. Marvie M. Abesamis, vice president, Dr. Carmina Noela A. Aquino, secretary, Evelyn R. Singson, treasurer, Corazon PB Claudio, PRO and lawyer Lorna P. Kapunan, legal counsel.

For more information on the TOWNS Search, call Abesamis at telefax 922-6370 or e-mail mvma@pevups.com, or Lim-Yuson at 400-7558, fax 522-1246, or e-mail nlyuson@museopambata.org, or the media committee co-chair Maria Rosa Carrion-Buck at 824-7505 or 776-0607, telefax 776-1165/7, e-mail bingcarrionbuck@hotmail.com, or Yoly Ong at 810-3861 or 810-3818, fax 810-3854.

Racing across the nation

ENDURO San Mig Light Adventures has become a race across the nation as it conquers the Visayas region soon for its third and final leg. This early, adventure racers are gearing up for what is expected to be the toughest and wettest race of the adventure series.

On Nov. 28 and 29, elite racers will rappel, wall climb and run their way from Dumaguete to Bacolod City for the two-day urban adventure race. The map of the race-created by the country's urban race aficionados-will not be revealed until the day of the race itself.

Enduro San Mig Light Adventures' final leg in the Visayas caps the adventure spirit that was generously displayed during the race's first two legs. The Enduro race kicked off at the Eastwood Grounds in Libis, Quezon City, where media and celebrity challengers raced through the metropolis. The race-a combination of strength, with and endurance-subjected participants not only to physically demanding activities but also to mentally challenging games as well.

Racers on the second leg darted all the way from Clark Airfield in Angeles, Pampanga to Baguio City. The elite racers were especially proud of the feat, having literally raced for two straight days literally under the weather.

So, if you have what it takes, join the best of the best. Just log on to INQ7.net or call 531-7018 for more details.

PARTICIPANTS in the Fun Category of the Enduro San Mig Light Adventures eagerly raced around Baguio City Sept. 20.

ELITE teams catch up with each other in a lahar-laden field in Pampanga Sept. 19 in the 2-day North Luzon leg. The race finished off in Baguio City.

STATE FITNESS OPENS AT MCARTHUR HIGHWAY
State Fitness Center recently celebrated its grand opening at Unit 6 of the Ponciana Building along McArthur Highway in Potrero, Malabon. Shown cutting the ceremonial ribbon, from left, are Antonio 'Ferdie' Liu Jr, Councilor Arnold S. Vicencio and Jacinto Gan Jr.

VENTURE 7 BAZAAR
Venture 7, a group of civic-minded ladies, will have its Christmas bazaar on Nov. 23 and Dec. 7 at the ballroom of Intercon Hotel. You can do your Christmas shopping for gourmet food, wine, Christmas baskets, fashion accessories, shoes, bags, garments, home decors and novelty items at low prices. Apples will be on sale at P1 each. Among recipients are the Makabata Foundation and Center for Migrant Youth. Behind this project are, seated front, Fanny Blanco, Linda Villadelgado and Fortune Ledesma. At the middle row are Lita Gelano and Celine Bautista. At the back are Pille Aquino and Chit Gohu.

Bits & Clips

Cabiao High grand reunion

ALL ALUMNI of Cabiao High School are invited to the Batch '78 silver jubilee grand reunion on Dec. 27 at the Cabiao High School campus in Cabiao, Nueva Ecija. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m., and the celebration lasts until 5 p.m. For more information, call Marivic Nogoy at 0920-5410285, Ledy Galang at 0917-9598339, or Noel Gamboa at 0917-5384127.

Triple treat from Touch Mobile

TOUCH Mobile has entered into a partnership with Purefoods Hormel for another value-added treat for the family. Under the promo, which runs until Nov. 30, buyers of Touch Mobile Super Family 64k or Super Value SIM packs are entitled to three free Moby Hotdog sandwiches for every SIM pack purchased. Touch Mobile's Super Family 64k SIM pack is priced at P140. A day or two after a Touch Mobile SIM pack buyer activates and makes his first call, he will receive a system-generated text message informing him that he can join the promo. To claim the free sandwiches, the subscriber simply goes to any of the 300 participating Purefoods Tender Juicy Hotdog stalls, presents the complete text message received, and surrenders the plastic SIM housing of the SIM card. The free sandwiches may be redeemed until Jan. 30, 2004.

ISP's 'temptation'

NEW SUBSCRIBERS who sign up for a Pacific Internet Speed@ccess Dial-Up Plan from Oct. 1 to Nov. 30 will automatically get six months worth of the country's top-of-the-line dial-up subscription absolutely free. This means that the monthly service fee (MSF) charges will be waived on the 2nd, 4th, 6th, 8th, 10th and 12th full months that they are with Pacific Internet. Pacific Internet will also be giving away the Apple iMac G4, the fastest iMac ever made. All new Speed@ccess subscribers who sign up during the promo period automatically get a raffle entry for a chance to win the iMac G4. For more information, call the customer service hotline at 918-5200, or log on to www.pacific.net.ph.

Alternative medicine seminar

AN OPPORTUNITY for medical practitioners to formally go into the practice of alternative medicine is now being offered at a 5-day seminar from Nov. 10 to 14 at the RCBC Plaza. The seminar "Introduction to the Practice of Alternative Medicine" is a joint project of the Institute of Natural Healing of the Subic Bay Medical Center, the first complementary medicine and risk factor management (lifestyle medicine) center in the Philippines and the Center for Natural Healthcare and Holistic Development of Nutri-Ventures Multi-Purpose Cooperative (550-1594 and 550-1984). Principal lecturer is Dr. Samuel P. Dizon, lifestyle director of the Subic Institute. The holistic program covers subjects and practices in the field of alternative medicine such as integration of alternative with conventional medicine, nutritional principles and dietary guidelines, an alternative techniques.

Catanduanes oratorical contest

14 HIGH school students representing the towns in Catanduanes will vie for the Vice Governor's Oratorical Cup on Nov. 14 at the Provincial Capitol Dome in the capital town of Virac. The topic for this year is whether President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo should run in the presidential election in May. The yearly oratorical competition, now on its 3rd year, is a project of Vice Governor Cesar V. Sarmiento. The champion will receive a trophy, a certificate and P3,000. The 1st runner up also gets a trophy, certificate and P2,000, while the 2nd runner up gets a trophy, certificate and P1,000. Other non-winning participants and their coaches will each receive P500 and a certificate. Schools represented in the cup will be awarded certificates of recognition.

PEUGEOT CENTRE OPENS AT ORTIGAS
After the successful launch at The Fort, Bonifacio Global City in Taguig, Peugeot, one of Europe's most respected and celebrated car manufacturers, further strengthened its presence in the local automotive industry when it recently inaugurated its showroom. With a turn-of-the-century European Carnival as its backdrop, guests and friends of Peugeot were treated to a magical night of merriment and festivities as it highlighted the four outstanding qualities that make a Peugeot, namely design, reliability, dynamism and innovation. Welcoming the guests and supporters of Peugeot in the country was Peugeot Ortigas Centre president Annie Tan-Yee. A spectacular mime performance ushered in the three car models Peugeot introduced in the country-the 206, 206cc and the 307. The Peugeot Ortigas Centre is located at 88 ADB Avenue corner Opal Road. For more information, log on to www.peugeot.com.ph. At the ribbon-cutting ceremony were, from left, general director of automobiles Peugeot for Asean monsieur Dominique Monet, area manager of automobiles Peugeot for Southeast Asia Alain Freyermuth, French Ambassador to the Philippines madame Renee Veyret, Tan-Yee, Autofrance managing director Marjorie Lee, and Autofrance Philippines Inc president Valentin Torres.

ALSO present at the inauguration were (from left) Danny Ocampo, marketing director of BusinessWorld, monsieur Monet, Jeff Attwood, president and managing director of Total, Lee, Rona Quejada, manager for corporate affairs, Total, Pepito Olarte, VP for advertising, Philippine Daily Inquirer, and Kenny Nuyda, AVP for advertising, Inquirer.

ADVENTURE BREWING BETWEEN THE NORTH FACE, SAN MIG LIGHT
The North Face, the leading worldwide brand of high-performance outerwear and gear, recently forged a partnership with San Miguel Light. For every purchase of The North Face T-shirts from participating outlets, consumers will get five free cans of San Miguel Light beer. This six-pack promo, with The North Face Shirt as the sixth item in the pack, will be running from Oct. 15 to Nov. 15 and will be available at Bratpack stores in the Greater Manila Area and at selected Toby's outlets. Shown during the contract signing for the promo are, from left, Abraham Cipriano, San Miguel Light brand manager and Thomas Lim, director of Uniglobe Travelware Co Inc, the exclusive distributor of The North Face bags and merchandise.

San Mig LIGHT

FIRST QUADRANT RACES TO THE TOP
First Quadrant Philippines Inc, the leading multi-level marketing company in the Philippines, marked its Quarter Date Product and Catalogue Launch Oct. 8 at the Hotel InterContinental in Makati City. The event included the recognition of First Quadrant's top eight business associates and the introduction of its latest catalogue featuring 12 new products, some of which were endorsed by TV personalities Joyce Jimenez and Kris Aquino. The occasion was highlighted with the unveiling ceremony and the launch of First Quadrant's D' Color Fashion Cosmetics by Doyee T. Tumpalan, president of FQPI, and Kris Aquino as product endorser. Shown seated, from left, are brand manager of D' Color Fashion Cosmetics Rubi Esteves, FQPI president Doyee T. Tumpalan, Ms Aquino, and brand manager of D' Color Fashion Cosmetics Elizabeth Isidro. Standing are the creative director of Calypso Color Benn Almazar and executive vice president and GM of Mind Matter Attitude Media Inc Gigi Mendoza-Admana.

GSM BLUE CAMPUS PARTY GOES TO UP
The GSM Blue Campus Party on Tour stretches to several more campuses in Metro Manila. In fact, there were more than 25 universities included as the next party destination. The University of the Philippines was among the few who made it on the list. GSM Blue turned the night acoustic, as sentimental love songs filled the air. Then GSM Blue and Unilever Philippines gave away loads of prizes-shirts, jackets and gift packs-all while the GSM Blue mini bar provided free-flowing cocktail drinks of the GSM Blue experience. Smooth, sweet, clear. The GSM Blue Campus Party on Tour 3rd leg was brought by Ad Staunch Communication Network, Unilever Philippines (Close-Up and Sunsilk), and Compass Internet. Shown are the students of UP proudly showing off their GSM Blues.

New facility to help reduce settlement risks for banks

MEGALink has become the first non-bank to develop an electronic settlement facility connected to the Philippine Payments and Settlments System (PhilPaSS), the country's real time gross settlment system. The join undertaking between MegaLink and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas successfully went into production recently with the approval of the Monetary Board.

The electronic settlement facility will reduce transaction processing and financial settlement risks among member banks and significantly improves inter-bank settlement operations with manual processing minimized.

BSP Gov. Rafael Buenaventura said MegaLink's electronic facility will be able to approximate real time, final and irrevocable settlment of the network's financial transactions via direct debit or credit to member banks' demand deposit accounts with BSP. Prior to the system, settlement was competed with a two-day lag.

He commended the pioneering ATM network for a job well done before MegaLink officers and member bank CEOs. MegaLink chair and Bank of Commerce president Raul B. de Mesa and MegaLink president and Philippine National Bank President and CEO Lorenzo V. Tan led the assembly.

Do's and don'ts for business . . .

From page B2-4

by the beach, in which case you can wear resort attire. This could also be a slightly dressier affair at a restaurant or at the hotel ballroom. In which case, wearing an Indonesian Batik shirt or a dress shirt would be the appropriate attire.

Bali is very different from the rest of Indonesia. You will find, if you have gone on business trips to Jakarta, that Bali is more laid back, simply because it is a resort town. The major difference between Bali and the rest of Indonesia is that in the Balinese Islands, the dominant religion in Hinduism, whereas in the rest of Indonesia it is Muslim. As such, everything from food (Balinese eat pork, Indonesian Muslims do not) to culture will have variances. I will give you a general list of some do's and don'ts to bear in mind on your next trip. I am presuming that your hosts are based in Jakarta and you are just in Bali as a venue for your conference. I hope this helps:

- Muslims around the world pray 5 times a day. You will find that in Indonesia (including Bali) prayer rooms are present in hotels and office buildings. Respect the religious beliefs and practices of others and bear in mind that sometimes (although not always for international conferences) meetings may be put on hold for this purpose.
- Indonesia has three major ethnic groups: Muslim, Hindu and Chinese Indonesians. Religion is a big part of their culture, 88 percent of Indonesians are Muslims, others are Hindus, Buddhists and Catholics. Religion/culture dictates specific rules for appropriate gifts. Muslim, Hindus, and the Chinese culture each have rules regarding food, alcohol, and other items. Make sure your gift is not offensive to the person you are giving it to.
- Aside from handshakes no other physical contact should be made. The Filipino traits of giving a kiss on the cheek or a pat on the back as a greeting, are not acceptable behavior. Wait for an Indonesian woman to offer her hand first, if she does not offer it at all, do not take offense. Although you will find that most business people do offer their hands for a handshake. Man to man handshakes are the norm, wait for the person of higher ranking to offer his hand for a handshake first. Always shake hands with your right hand.
- Indonesians value hierarchy and place a lot of importance to position and title. Make sure that you acknowledge higher ranking managers and directors. Address each person using his/her title plus full name. Rank and status is very important in this culture.
- Present a business card to each person you are meeting. Offer your card with the printing positioned so the recipient can read it. Your right hand holds the card, with your left hand supporting your right wrist. Your card will be received with both hands. Read the card carefully. Never place your business card or keep a person's card in your back pocket.
- Selamat means peace and is used for greeting. It does not mean thank you. Thank you in Bahasa Indonesia is Terima Kasih or Ma kasih for short.
- "Yes, but…" means no. Very few Indonesians will actually say No; this is considered rude and impolite behavior.

(E-mail your business etiquette queries to etiquetteconsultants@hotmail.com. Names of senders will not be published.)

Act locally through SIMBY and MSSD

From page B2-1

members are located—are not yet environmentally sound and are not yet providing livelihood opportunities to the poor in our midst. That's why we are starting our MAP GREEN Program by practicing SIMBY first.

To apply SIMBY, we have entered into partnerships with some public and private organizations that have the mandate, technologies and technical expertise to promote environmental protection and the broader concept of sustainable development. Through these partnerships, MAP members may get assistance to initiate GREEN projects in their respective communities.

Our first GREEN project is urban agriculture, e.g., vegetable and herbal plant gardening, with the assistance of the Department of Agriculture (DA)-National Capital Region (NCR). The second is tree planting with indigenous species, with the support of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-NCR. And the third is planting of bamboo, Roselle plant, and other trees and plants for livelihood and beautification, with the assistance of the Ecosystem Research and Development Bureau of the DENR.

In the business sector, Manila Water Company, which is headed by MAP member Antonino Aquino, is the first to join the MAP GREEN Program by offering assistance for addressing our local communities' water and wastewater concerns.

As chair of the MAP Environment Committee, I thought I should be the first to apply SIMBY. Thus, my community's associations, the First Valle Verde Association and the Valle Verde 1 Ladies Club, launched our vegetable gardening project with an initial set of seeds, fertilizer and basic garden tools from the DA. We are now planting vegetables and herbal plants in vacant lots in our subdivision that used to have weeds only. This project is expected to provide not only fresh vegetables and herbs to our homes, but also financial and psychological incentives to our helpers and drivers, who do most of the gardening. The incentives will come through a recognition program that will provide prizes for the best garden plot and the best gardening team. We are also encouraging residents in our community to buy the produce and to sell those in excess of their needs, with the net income going to their helpers and drivers.

We have also started to plant indigenous tree species, partly to replace the old Gemelina trees in our subdivision. Through this project, we are informing our residents that it is not enough just to plant trees; we must also choose the type of trees to plant. It was a mistake of the past and still is until now to plant Gemelina trees in residential areas.

Gemelina is a fast-growing foreign tree species that should not be planted in residential areas for many reasons, one of which is the fact that it grows tall enough to pose as threat to life and property.

The DENR limits the planting of Gemelina in tree plantations for commercial timber purposes and in denuded areas for reforestation.

But biodiversity conservationists within and outside the DENR prefer that we maintain our native biodiversity by planting instead indigenous tree species, for example, Dalipapak, which is comparable to Gemelina in terms of growth rate and uses. Our natural organisms and birds, many of which are now endangered, as well as other native plants rely on our indigenous species.

MAP has more than 750 top executives as members. If all of us will adapt SIMBY with GREEN projects in our communities and then help rural communities to do the same afterwards, we could make some significant contribution to our country's sustainable development.

But, since we have the captains of industry in MAP, we should even do more.

That is why we are holding the MSSD, the MAP Summit on Sustainable Development, at the end of this month. This is our local version of the WSSD. We are bringing together leaders from government, civil society and business to help extend the MAP 2003 theme, "Enhancing Entrepreneurship Through Partnerships," to "Walking the Talk Toward Sustainable Development."

We are borrowing that phrase "Walking the talk" from the title of a new book, which was launched at the WSSD. The book features corporate initiatives toward sustainable development, including that of Nestlé Philippines.

At the MSSD, the top executives of companies that are now "walking the talk" through notable sustainable development projects will share with us their experiences and answers to those questions. One of the projects is the Malampaya Project of the Shell Philippines Exploration B.V., which won an award at the WSSD as one of the top ten best examples in the world on sustainable development partnerships in action. We shall also hear the innovative sustainable investment strategy and projects of the Asian Conservation Company and the environmental partnership initiatives of Unilever Philippines.

We expect the leaders from government led by Environment Secretary Bebet Gozun, Energy Secretary Vince Perez and Congressman Neric Acosta, and civil society leaders who shall be with us at the MSSD, to identify priority programs and projects in their areas of concern that need public-private sector partnerships and private investments.

The MSSD will be held on Nov. 28 to 30, 2003. Expected to attend are some of the sectoral leaders in MAP and interested guest executives and entrepreneurs. We hope to produce a workable plan of action that will challenge MAP members and other executives to walk the talk—with global perspective but with our feet walking faster or, perhaps, jogging or running, on local grounds. *(The author is an engineer-economist, and business sector representative to the Philippine Council for Sustainable Development. Contact mapsec@globenet.com.ph for feedback.*

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30%	187,500	142,500	20,902	14,953	12,065	10,639
40%	250,000	205,000	17,916	12,817	10,341	9,119
50%	312,500	267,500	14,930	10,681	8,618	7,599

Matrix AT (SRP: P 680,000.00)			Net Monthly Amortization			
DP %	DP	PROMO DP	24 mos.	36 mos.	48 mos.	60 mos.
20%	136,000	91,000	25,990	18,593	15,002	13,229
30%	204,000	159,000	22,741	16,269	13,127	11,576
40%	272,000	227,000	19,492	13,945	11,251	9,922
50%	340,000	295,000	16,244	11,620	9,376	8,268

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20%	125,000	500,000	41,667	27,778	21,738	15,552	12,548	11,066
30%	187,500	437,500	36,459	24,306	18,753	13,415	10,825	9,545
40%	250,000	375,000	31,250	20,834	15,768	11,279	9,101	8,025
50%	312,500	312,500	26,042	17,362	13,021	9,143	7,377	*6,506

MATRIX AT

DP%	DP	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
20%	136,000	544,000	45,334	30,431	23,841	17,065	13,761	12,135
30%	204,000	476,000	39,667	26,445	20,591	14,731	11,887	10,481
40%	272,000	408,000	34,000	22,667	17,344	12,407	10,011	8,628
50%	340,000	340,000	28,334	18,889	14,167	10,082	8,136	7,175

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'You don't want a CEO with no ambition'

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

DOMINIC Barton, chair of the Asia-Pacific office of McKinsey and Co., one of the world's think tanks, says you can never find the CEO of Kookmin Bank of Korea, the second largest bank in the region, in his office.

This is because Kim Sang-hoon is too busy going around his bank's branches all over the country talking to employees, meeting with union leaders, listening to customer's comments and discussing with clients.

Kim has been quoted as saying he uses up over two pairs of shoes a year because of too much walking.

In 1997, at the height of the financial crisis, Kim vowed to make Kookmin Bank the biggest in his country. It may have been a crazy thing to say then, but he did it.

Six years ago, Legend was an unknown brand. Nobody wanted to talk to them, much less deal with them. Today, it is the largest seller of personal computers in China with a huge gap between it and the second largest.

Its top men changed the mindset of the typical Chinese worker who had always felt he had no control over the company and all he had to do was put in his day's work and he had a job for life.

Creating a mindset

What management did, according to Barton, was create a mindset that each employee is responsible for the company.

"They spent money, management time to guide the people. The performance culture was a radical thing to do in China," he said.

But it worked. Today, Legend is beating multinational firms that have been in the business much longer and are more equipped technologically.

Barton, the keynote speaker at the 2nd Management Association of the Philippines International CEO Conference, talked about "If you want solutions in tough times, oust old mindsets."

In his talk, he showed how valuable the position of the CEO is in moving an organization forward.

The world, he says, is very different today. Standards have changed. It is possible to make money easily but it is possible to lose it just as quickly.

There is tremendous capital "swirling" in the globe today—over $80 trillion worth and still growing, projected to reach $210 trillion by 2020.

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BARTON: "The people who will attract the foreign direct investments are not the government but the business leaders."

The role of the government has been substantially diminished. A case in point would be in the area of exchange rate. As George Soros has proven, central banks are no longer in control over the rates.

Government roles

It is Soros or funds like Fidelity and CALpers that have the power to move exchange rates.

For businesses to look upon government to provide the infrastructure and the environment for ventures to thrive may be an old mindset.

He cites the case of an executive in Bombay, India, who lamented the embarrassing situation in the airport where most of the time, half of the lights were not working, the luggage carts' wheels only turned right. And when it rained, those arriving would get their feet wet. He also lamented their legal system, which in polite terms, can best be described as "crap."

For years, Barton said this executive tried to get the government to do something. But nothing happened. So what he did was get a group of business leaders to fix the carts, cover the potholes, and put new lightbulbs.

"The people who will attract the foreign direct investments are not the governments but the business leaders. They are the ones people will talk to," Barton reminded.

RP potentials

The Philippines, he said, has a lot of potentials: "You have significant potential but frankly, you are not realizing it."

Korea, he said, has much less potential than the Philippines in terms of natural resources. When the crisis hit in 1997, many thought it would not survive. It did. The Koreans rallied as a nation to work for progress.

He pointed out that the amount of FDI flowing into the Philippines, which stands at only $10 million, is "atrocious for a country like this."

He added that surveys show incentives are not what attract foreign investors, rather, the availability of trained manpower and the accessibility of the place - both of which are attributes of the Philippines.

In summary, he stated: "The global economy is in transition and executives must understand it. There is capital out there, opportunities as well as competitors. There are big transitions going on in the Asia Pacific region and companies have to think beyond the Philippines. And third, companies have to think about setting and building unrealistic and ambitious goals."

"You don't want a CEO with no ambition. You have to set the bar high," he said.

Do's and don'ts for business conduct in Indonesia

GOODNESS GRACES

Lia S. Bernardo

Q: MY CO-WORKERS and I are eagerly anticipating a regional sales conference that will be held in Bali in the first week of December. Although we are excited about staying at a resort and enjoying ourselves there, we also want to make sure that we conduct ourselves in a business like manner while attending the meetings that have been scheduled for us. Our Indonesian counterparts who are in charge of arranging the conference have informed us that the attire for the meetings is casual. Does this mean we do not have to wear suits to the scheduled meetings? When they say casual in Indonesia, is a polo shirt okay? This is an Asian regional conference so we will have delegates from all over Asia including China and Japan. Please give the Philippine group some advice on do's and don'ts for business conduct in Indonesia.

A: First thing you need to remember is that you are going to attend a business conference at a resort town. This is very different from doing business in Jakarta, which would be more formal. Seeing as that your conference will be held in Bali, you are allowed a bit more freedom in terms of dress when attending the scheduled meetings. Though you may walk around the resort in shorts or sarongs, you should not however attend the meetings in resort wear. Casual in this business sense still means wearing long pants, and yes a polo shirt will suffice. You can even wear a collared sport shirt, slacks, belt and leather shoes with rubber soles. Depending on your company culture you may even opt for a pair of khaki pants as opposed to a tailored pair of pants. Ladies should wear blouses or shirts with sleeves. Of course once you are out of the meeting rooms and hitting the pool and beach area then you can walk around in whatever attire you please. Also bear in mind that when attending the meetings you and your colleagues should wear proper shoes, slippers are for the beach.

Also bear in mind that you should bring a dress shirt as most of these conferences end with a dinner. This could be very informal

DO'S / B2-3

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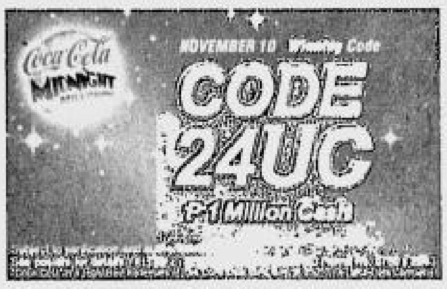
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"DEKADA '70" by Chito Roño, with star Piolo Pascual

"OSAMA," by Siddiq Barmak of Afghanistan

"CARANDIRU," by Hector Babenco of Brazil

'Dekada' vs 55 foreign films

By Ruben V. Nepales
LA Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—"Dekada '70," Chito Roño's acclaimed film adaptation of Lualhati Bautista's novel about a family's struggles during the Marcos regime, is competing in a record-breaking crowded field of 55 entries for the 2003 Oscar best foreign language film award.

NERI in a new light
EGAY MONTAÑA

Frank Pierson, president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, announced that this is the largest number of movies submitted in this category, topping last year's record by one film.

The final five nominees from this crop of 55 entries for best foreign film and other nominations to the 76th Academy Awards will be announced on Jan. 27, 2004.

Palestine, Sri Lanka and Mongolia qualified to have entries for the first time in the 76-year history of the Oscar awards.

Palestine's entry, "Divine Intervention," won the jury prize in the 2002 Cannes film festival.

Afghanistan entered Siddiq Barmak's "Osama," which is the first Afghan film presented in Cannes. Barmak received Unesco's Fellini Silver Medal last June for his tale of a girl who passes herself off as a boy to survive the oppression of females during the Taliban rule.

One of the notable filmmakers with entries is Brazil's Hector Babenco, whose lauded works include "Pixote," his chronicle of Brazilian street children, and "Kiss of the Spider Woman," his first American feature and for which William Hurt won an Oscar for best actor.

Babenco's entry this year is "Carandiru," a portrayal of lives in and out of the largest prison in Latin America.

The Philippines' "Dekada '70" shared the 2002 Gawad Urian award for best picture with Gil Portes' "Mga Munting Tinig," which was the country's bet in last year's Oscar derby for best foreign film.

The movie version of Bautista's Palanca Award-winning novel stars Vilma Santos, Piolo Pascual (both of whom won awards for their performances, with Piolo winning all the best supporting actor trophies from the award-giving bodies), Christopher de Leon and Marvin Agustin.

Bautista scored a Gawad Urian win for best screenplay.

The Oscar awards night has been moved from its traditional schedule in March to Feb. 29, 2004.

A controversy related to the Academy Awards arose from a decision by the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) to ban screeners—those free DVDs and videocassettes given to voters who decide the Oscar winners. The ban, conceived by the major studios' trade group to crack down on piracy, instantly met opposition from directors such as Francis Ford Coppola and Robert Altman, film critics, independent studios and others who say this will handicap smaller films' chances in the Oscar competition.

The smaller films usually get limited theatrical screening so their producers claim these screeners are their means of creating awareness of these films among Oscar voters. A tentative deal by the MPAA to reverse part of its ban on the screeners last month was opposed by the Screen Actors Guild.

The order in Victor Neri's clutter /C5

Portes movie will make you cry, or it will make you angry /C8

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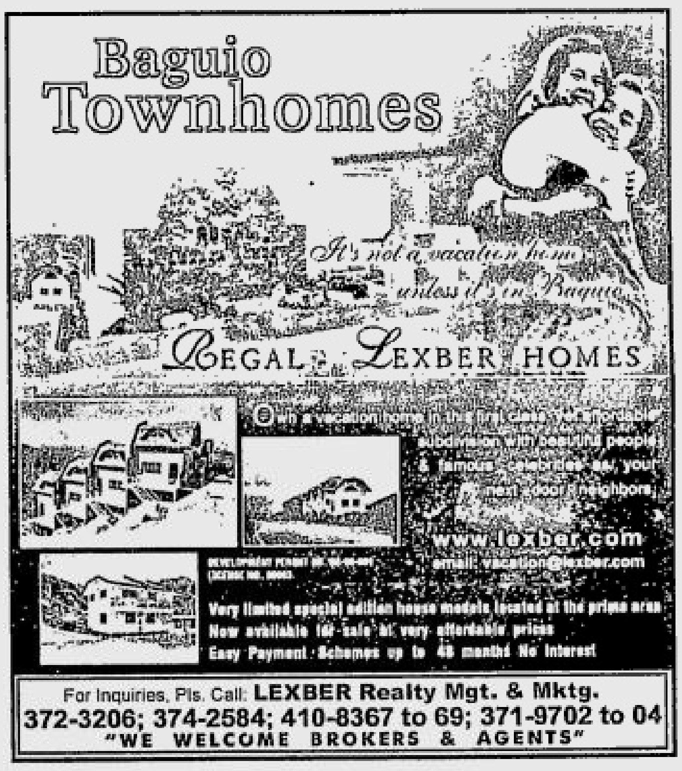
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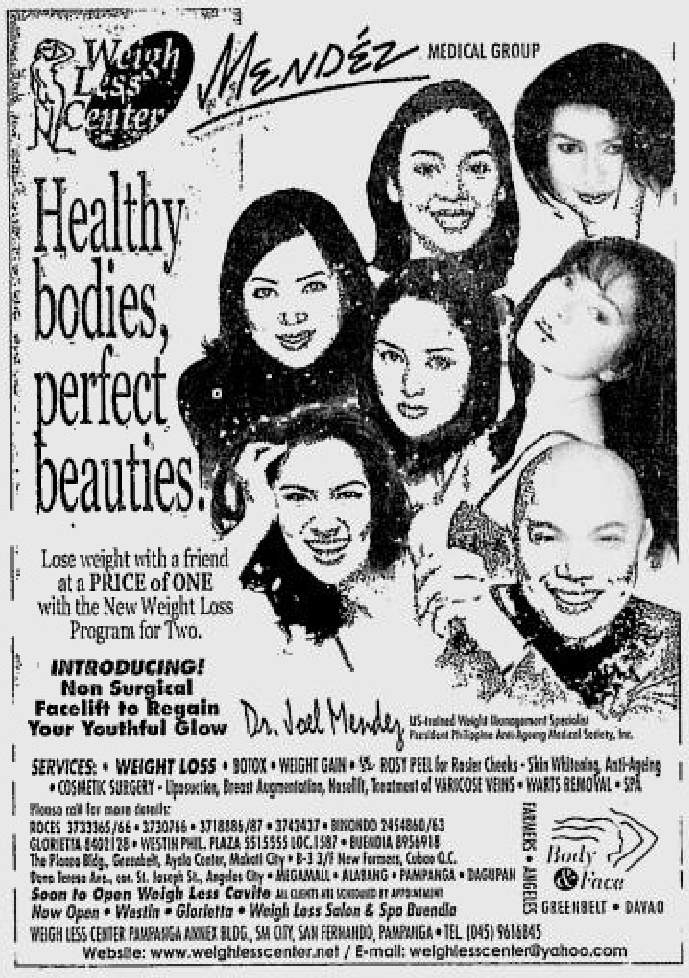
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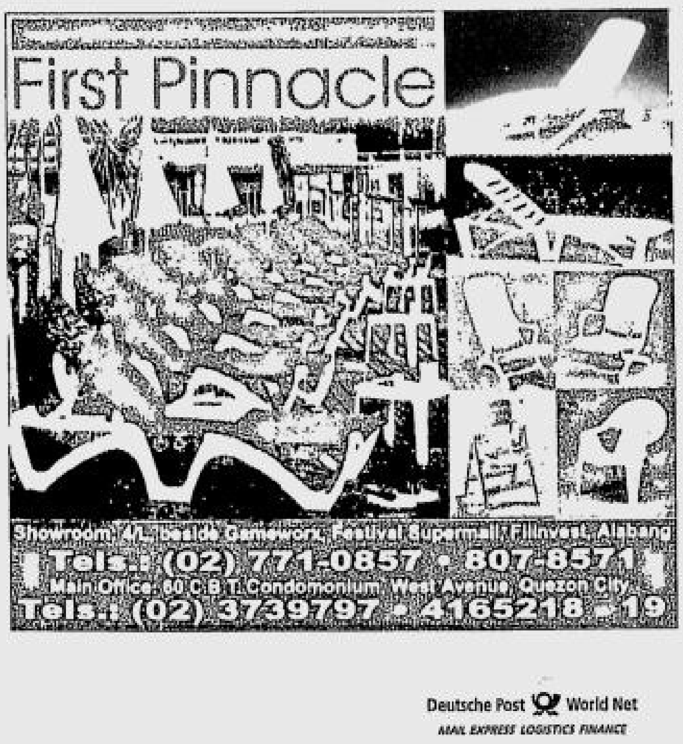
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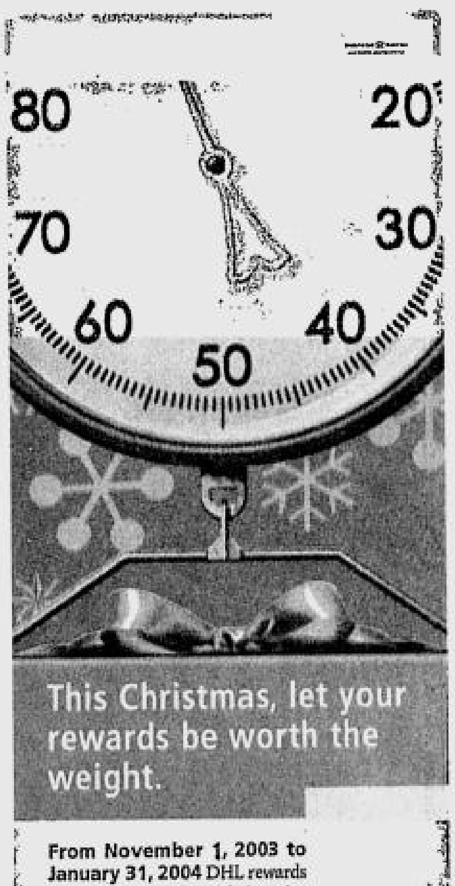
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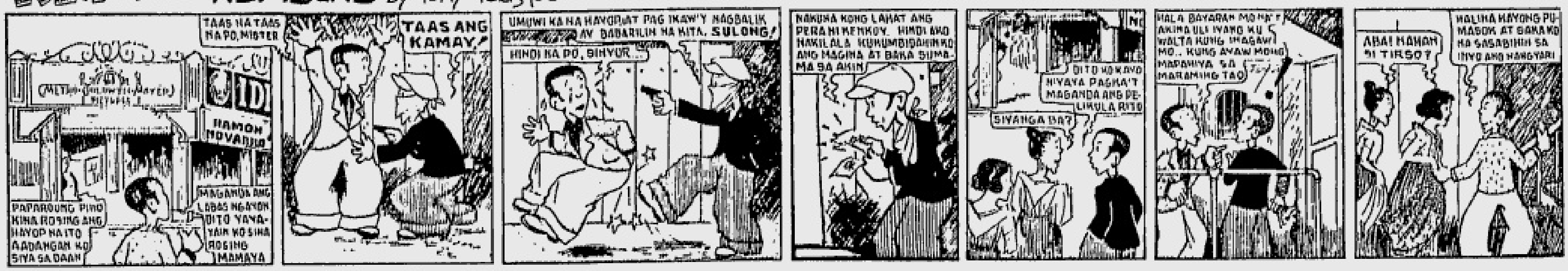

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURES
IDI
RAMON NOVARRO
PAPAROONG PINO KINA ROSING ANG HAYOP NA ITO AABANGAN KO SIYA SA DAAN
MAGANDA ANG LABAS NGAYON DITO YAYAYAIN KO SINA ROSING MAMAYA
TAAS NA TAAS NA PO, MISTER
TAAS ANG KAMAY!
UMUWI KA NA HAYOP AT PAG IKAW'Y MAGBALIK AY BABARILIN NA KITA. SULONG!
HINDI NA PO, SINYOR...
NAKUHA KONG LAHAT ANG PERA NI KENKOY. HINDI AKO NAKILALA KUKUMBIDAHIN KO ANG MAGINA AT BAKA SUMAMA SA AKIN
DITO KO KAYO NIYAYA PAGKA'T MAGANDA ANG PELIKULA RITO
SIYANGA BA?
WALA BAYARAN MO NA'T AKINA ULI IYANG KUWALTA KUNG INAGAW MO.. KUNG AYAW MONG MAPAHIYA SA MARAMING TAO
ABA! NASAAN SI TIRSO?
HALINA KAYONG PUMASOK AT SAKA KO NA SASABIHIN SA INYO ANG NANGYARI

Courtesy of KOMIKS CAFE

All-important dividing line

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

IN MANY countries, there's a clear dividing line between mainstream television and sexy entertainment. This is because TV, a medium that literally enters our home and thus catches our children in their most vulnerable state, is supposed to be "GP" (General Patronage), while graphically sexy productions are "R" (Restricted).

Unfortunately, that dividing line has been blurred in the Philippines, where you can see sexy stars guesting in morning shows, talking about their huge, surgically enhanced boobs; gyrating provocatively on noontime shows and cavorting naughtily and cracking *double entendre* jokes in sitcoms at night.

What's going on here? In their desperate gambit to lure more viewers to watch their programs, most of out TV networks have forgotten the key difference between "GP" and "R."

They know that sexy performers interest and turn on the audience, so they make them appear on TV in all of their seductiveness and occasional vulgarity, and never mind if family members are embarrassed and children are assaulted by "entertainment" that's too crass and graphic for them to properly handle.

Time was when sexy stars guested and said a mouthful only on late-night TV shows, telecast at a time when most minors could be presumed to already be asleep. These days, however, they're all over the programming schedule, doing their best—and worst—to cheapen the TV landscape.

They've even become brazen about it. On daytime TV, they've been heard to plug their graphically sexy music videos by proclaiming that they do frontal nudity on them, so video voyeurs will definitely get their money's worth—and never mind that impressionable children are watching.

There's an audience and market for sexy entertainment, but it shouldn't be confused with the family audience that is the proper market for TV. Concerned viewers should therefore forcefully remind TV executives and industry and government watchdog groups of their responsibility to make sure that this all-important dividing line be observed, to protect the country's youth from sleazy "entertainment."

Sexy performers claim that they disrobe for all sorts of laudatory reasons (to provide for their families, to pay for the education of their siblings, etc.). Truth to tell, however, some of them are too lazy to do anything else.

That's their business, of course, but when they flaunt their crass behavior and attitudes on TV, they could influence impressionable young viewers with their negative values—and that's all to the bad.

That's when it becomes necessary for parents and educators to complain, protest and act to make sure that children are protected from the "in-your-face" actuations of sexy performers who want to legitimize and go mainstream, with what should basically be a restricted activity.

There's a time and place for sexy stars to do their graphic thing, but it should be on the movie screen and on late-night TV, not on morning, noontime and early-evening shows on that small screen in our living rooms and bedrooms, as is all too often the case these days.

Films on Star Movies

CATCH these films on the Star Movies channel this month (at 9 p.m. unless otherwise indicated):

Nov. 10, "Dude, Where's My Car?" with **Ashton Kutcher, Jennifer Garner** and **Seann William Scott**. Nov. 11, "Multiplicity" with **Michael Keaton** and **Andie MacDowell**. Nov. 12, "Hidden Agenda" with **Dolph Lundgren**.

Nov. 13, "What's the Worst That Could Happen?" with **Danny DeVito, Martin Lawrence** and **John Leguizamo**. Nov. 14, "Ghost in the Machine" with **Karen Allen**. Nov. 15 at 7:30 p.m., "Leaving Las Vegas" with **Nicolas Cage** and **Elisabeth Shue**.

Nov. 16, "Dragonfly" with **Kevin Costner**. Nov. 17, "The Other Side of Heaven" with **Christopher Gotham** and **Anne Hathaway**. Nov. 18, "Rat" with **Imelda Staunton** and **Pete Postlethwaite**.

'Salute 2'

THE REPEAT performance of the "Salute" fund-raising concert on Nov. 12 at the Manila Hotel Fiesta Pavilion will once more showcase the singing ability of Amb. **Angie Reyes**, Interior and Local Government Sec. **Joey Lina** and Metro Manila Development Authority Chair **BF Fernando**.

In addition, they will be joined by Finance Sec. **Lito Camacho**, Housing Sec. **Mike Defensor**, Justice Usec. **Mercy Gutierrez**, and Reps. **Miguel Zubiri, Ace Barbers, Nonoy Andaya** and **Ricky Sandoval. Dulce** and **Ivy Violan** will also perform.

The repeat concert will raise funds for Filipino soldiers and their families through the Alay sa Kawal Foundation, and the Sapiens Militus Foundation. Call 911-5615.

Long-overdue Spanish filmfest gaining momentum

By Constantino C. Tejero

REVIEW

FOR two years now, Instituto Cervantes, Spain's cultural center in Manila, has been mounting a film festival in the country. This is long overdue, of course (the French, Japanese, British, Italians, Germans mounted their own years earlier)—and Filipino cineastes couldn't contain themselves from rushing to what Mother Spain has to offer.

This is a little surprising, because the filmfest charges fee for admission. And the screenings are held in a relatively remote section of Metro Manila.

Filipino moviegoers usually come in droves only when theater admission is free, as in Cine Europa. And Art Film in Greenbelt 1 in Makati can hardly fill half of the theater on ordinary days, or even during slack days of the Cinemanila International Film Festival. But during the Spanish filmfest, the moviegoers come, and they're willing to pay.

NO CHILD'S PLAY. Every aspect of "El Bola" shows the director's masterful control.

However, considering our historical and cultural link to Spain, strengthened by the proliferation of telenovelas from Latin America, that shouldn't be surprising. Most of all, it must be the quality of the films offered.

Spanish films are among the most potent in world cinema. They come from both hemispheres, from Europe and Latin America.

Spain's national cinema itself produces among the finest and most exciting films in European cinema, now probably rivaling the French and the Italian. The case for Buñuel, Saura and Almodóvar need no amplification.

Delicate subject matter

So it follows that we expect those that come to our shores to be no less than outstanding films. Instituto Cervantes sees to it Filipino moviegoers can watch one outstanding Spanish film every week the whole year round. And last year, the Spanish Film Festival was off to a good start.

This year, the filmfest, held Oct. 16-26, offered eight entries ranging from comedy to suspense thriller to documentary to melodrama. Screenings were well-attended and the films didn't disappoint, either.

> This year, it offered eight entries ranging from comedy to suspense thriller to documentary to melodrama. Screenings were well-attended and the films didn't disappoint, either

(We could only hope they would program in the future edition of this festival a vintage film or two along with recent ones. If they could screen for a paying audience a documentary like "En Construcción," why not a certified classic like "Viridiana"? Or "La Última Cena"? Or "Boda de Sangre"?)

On the last day of the festival, young and old, locals and expats, cineastes and ordinary moviegoers flocked to watch the closing film, "El Bola," and in less than 30 minutes filled the theater to capacity.

Released three years ago, this is Achero Mañas' first film but it already grabbed four Goya awards (Spanish equivalent to the Oscars), including Best Picture and Best Actor. It has been described as "a realistic and sensitive portrayal of a subject of an extremely delicate nature."

Psychological violence

This is the story of a 12-year-old boy nicknamed El Bola (or "pellet," because he's always carrying a small ball for good luck). It is a story of child abuse and dysfunctional families, parental terrorism and adult betrayal. For all we know, it can be alluding to Spanish fascism and the Franco dictatorship.

Every aspect of the film, from screenplay to cinematography, soundtrack and musical scoring, shows the masterful control of the director. Best of all are the performances of the cast, both adults and children, particularly the skillful turn of the diminutive Juan José Ballestra in the title role.

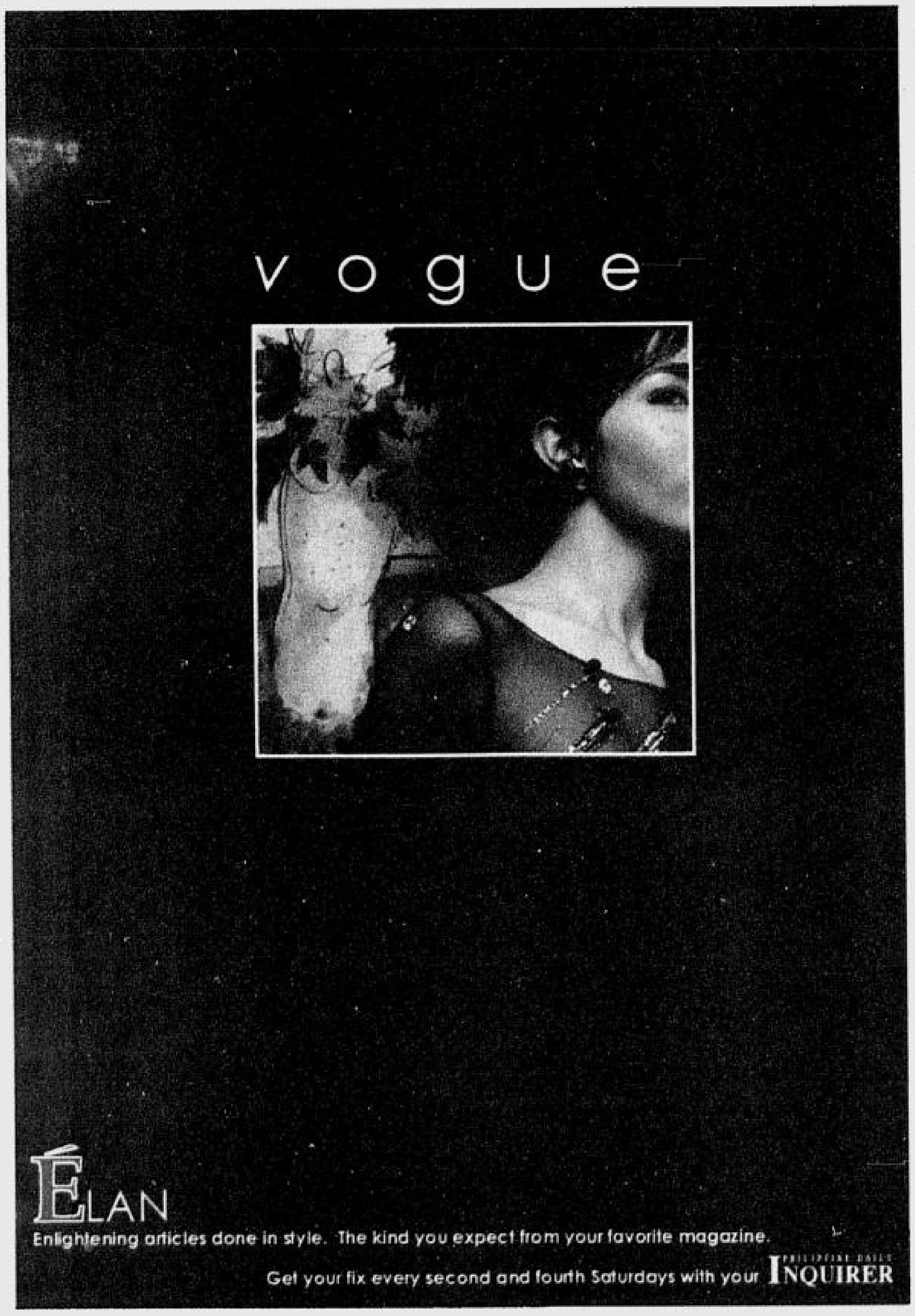
The film's rhythm is mesmerizing. Through 90 minutes, the audience sat and watched in stunned silence, from the gradual revelation of character and unfolding of story, through the quick cuts of the heart-stopping action in the penultimate scene, to the heart-wrenching finale.

The final scene is a medium shot of the boy framed by shadows, sitting in a room. He is ostensibly talking' to the audience, narrating his suffering in the hand of his father. The clicking of computer keys off screen gradually reveals this to be an interrogation room, with the boy enumerating the abuses to someone taking dictation, whether the police, psychiatrist or social worker.

The scene dissolves as the boy finishes off his catalogue of physical, mental and emotional violence: "He insulted me, he called me names—can I say it? . . . Bastard . . . Son of a bitch . . . Mother-f--er . . . Asshole . . . Pig. . . Faggot . . ."

Here the stupefied viewer wouldn't know whether the boy is enumerating his father's expletives, or is actually spouting obscenities at his father.

While in other screenings the emotionally, intellectually and aesthetically satisfied audience would demonstrate its approval of a film by loudly clapping, this time the shaken moviegoers filed out of the theater in silence, the silence of the grave.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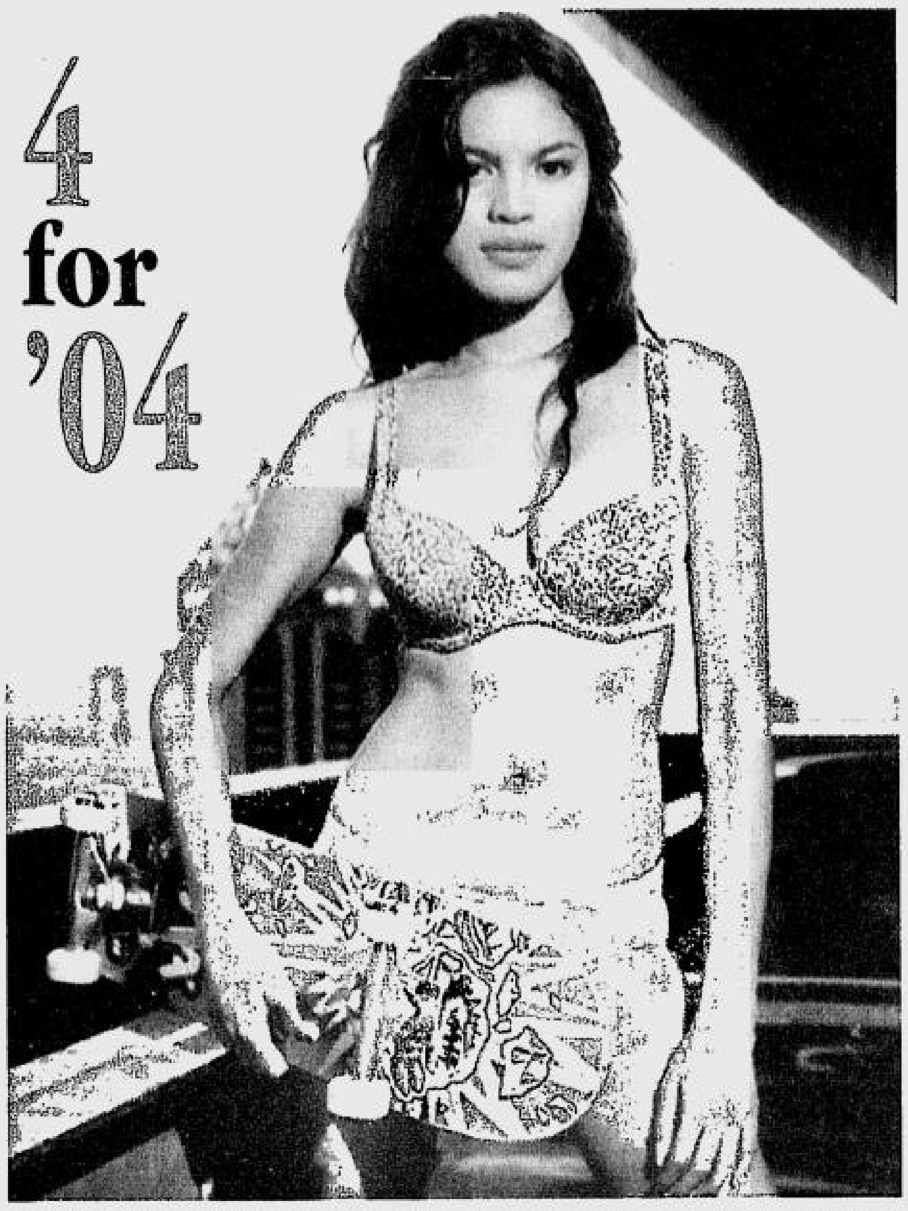

JULIANA Palermo puts a skateboard to new use as she cools off in the hot 2004 calendar of FHM (For Him Magazine) of which she is "resident sex columnist." FHM fills the new year with not just one but four sizzlers—Viva Hot Babe Myles Hernandez, new Seiko jewel Francine Prieto, and FHM pet Diana Zubiri, who is making her second appearance in an FHM calendar. The calendar drives FHM fans crazy with its combination of these babes and wheels—of sports cars, jeepneys, Juliana's skateboard and the LRT2 train behind her, and even shopping carts. The calendar is now available in magazine shops and bookstores—at P295 a pop.

ARNALDO acting since grade school

Tin is big on acting

FOUR years ago, Tin Arnaldo only wanted to sing. She and her mom went to family friend Vilma Sega, who is Star Records' managing director. Tin, then an Assumption student in Mass Communication-Media Production, soon signed up with Star Records and released her self-titled debut album.

That yielded the song "Sa'yo Lamang," which was included in Star Record's four-time platinum album "Tanging Yaman."

Tin is a former member of the Star Circle, who had her first TV exposure at three when she starred in a commercial for a baby product. Out of curiosity, she tried acting as a grownup, and became a regular on ABS-CBN's "Okatokat" for one year, as well as a mainstay on "ASAP," "Recuerdo de Amor" and "Buttercup."

Now, Tin is having the time of her life playing the bad girl, Lani Mercado's daughter, on GMA 7's new youth show, "Twin Hearts," aired Monday to Friday.

Starting this month, Tin will also be seen on "Love to Love," every Sunday, 2 p.m., with Sunshine Dizon and other young stars.

"I was in the drama guild from grade school to college," reveals Tin, whose show biz career is managed by Ronnie and Ida Henares' Primeline Inc.

She joined the Visayan tours of "El Filibusterismo/Ibong Adarna" and was also in the play "Promises Promises" at Onstage Greenbelt last year.

She enjoys acting but has not forgotten singing. She shows off this talent on "SOP," where she will soon appear regularly.

Tin is sensible enough to know show biz is not forever. She's bent on returning to school to finish the minor subjects she left behind and to a get a degree. She also plans to put up a "small food business," because "food is a necessity."

Her eyes may be set on the stars, but Tin's feet are firmly planted on the ground.

Silent movie at the Podium

FILM enthusiasts will have the rare chance to view a classic silent movie as the German Cultural Center, the Goethe Institut and the Podium present the Philippine premiere of "Umheimliche Geschichen" at The Podium Cinema 1 on Nov. 12 and 13.

The Majam Chamber Jazz Group will accompany the screening with music especially created for the silent film. Show time is 7:30 p.m.

The screening is held in cooperation with Smart Communications.

SHOW TIME

Directed by Richard Oswald, "Umheimliche Geschichen" (Horror Stories) features three popular stars of the German silent movie era—Anita Barber, Conrad Veidi and Reinold Schunzel. They appear at the start of the episodes as a prostitute, Death and the Devil searching for horror stories in an antique shop. They find five short and sinister plots about dubious husbands, lost hands and mysterious houses.

Oswald's techniques were revolutionary for his time, and today his are considered gems among early horror movies.

"Umheimliche Geschichen" premiered in Berlin in December 1919 and received an award in Amsterdam. The film was not seen in public for nearly 80 years until it was restored. The film is currently on a world tour.

Admission is free and is on a first-come, first served-basis.

The event is a project of Goethe Institut and The Podium in cooperation with Smart Communications, Jam 8.3 and Wave 89.1.

MTV Debit Card for young and young at heart

MTV VJ Patty Laurel receives a card from Equitable Card's Tony Conway, witnessed by MTV Philippines corporate affairs director Rod Nepomuceno and Equitable Card's Tessie Tanbonliong.

EQUITABLE Card and MTV Philippines is launching the MTV Debit Card on Friday, Nov. 14, at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati City.

The MTV Debit Card is a Visa Electron card designed to address the lifestyle of the young and the young at heart. Linked to an Equitable PCI Bank peso or dollar account, it functions as a purchase card accepted by more than 12 million Visa Electron merchants worldwide.

As an ATM card, it can be used for cash withdrawals in over 6,000 ATMs of the Equitable PCI Bank, Equitable Savings Bank, Megalink, BancNet and ExpressNet in the country, as well as in over 750,000 Visa Plus ATMs around the world.

It is also available as a prepaid E-card.

The Nov. 14 launch will feature a performance by Mojofly and games. A mall tour with popular bands will also go to Robinsons Galleria on Nov. 16 and Robinsons Place Manila on Nov. 28.

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PROFILE
JACK BAUER / Kiefer Sutherland
Alam kong may mga teroristang nais patayin
si Presidential candidate David Palmer.
Nawawala naman ang dalagang anak ko.
May kutob akong may kinalaman dito ang
mga taong malalapit sa akin.
Hindi ko na tuloy alam kung sino
ang kaibigan o kaaway ko.

Ako si Federal Agent Jack Bauer.
At malapit mo na akong makasama sa
pinakamahabang araw sa buhay mo.
BITIN KA NA BA?
ABS-CBN TELEVISION

Full moon nights at the Loop

SHOW TIME

THIS MONTH, Mag:net Gallery's "Full Moon Nights at the Loop" presents an unexpected musical installment—young fashion designer/musician Kate Torralba.

Torralba, 24, recognized as a refreshing new addition to the local style scene with her eye-catching, fashion-forward designs, shares a different facet of her persona. While her clothes reflect a happy, ebullient charm, her music is another story—sensitive, intense, even dark at certain moments.

"I've always found inspiration and refuge in music," declares Torralba, who considers her rare acoustic performances a welcome break from her designing work. Trained in classical piano as a child, an exposure to various pop/rock/standard influences has given her song-and-piano act a different edge.

As a former front woman of Cebu's award-winning pop-alternative act Hard Candy, Torralba looks forward to jamming with other surprise musical guests for Full Moon Nights.

"I usually do solo gigs at little artsy venues like Sanctum in Intramuros and Milenia Café in Quezon City, so I'm pretty psyched to jam with other musicians for the affair," says the artist.

Fans of Torralba's designs will also be given a treat when pieces from her new collection are displayed at Mag:net for the evening.

Catch this limited engagement tonight, 9 p.m. at Mag:net Gallery, The Loop, ELJ Bldg., ABS-CBN Compound, Eugenio Lopez Jr. Street, Quezon City.

Admission is free. For further information, contact the gallery at 4100995 or e-mail mag:net@info.com.ph

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8 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

SM CITY CEBU
[illegible]
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2 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
3 UNDERWORLD
4 THE RUNDOWN
5 MAPUPULANG LABI
6 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
7 MY FIRST ROMANCE
8 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

SM CITY BACOOR
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1 INNER SENSES
2 THE PHONE
3 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 LIBERATED
5 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
6 MY FIRST ROMANCE
7 BELPHEGOR
8 THE RUNDOWN

SM CITY PAMPANGA
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1 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
3 THE RUNDOWN
4 LIBERATED
5 AMERICAN PSYCHO 2
6 MY FIRST ROMANCE

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
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1 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2 MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 LIBERATED

SM BICUTAN
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1 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2 LIBERATED
3 MY FIRST ROMANCE
4 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

SM CITY MARILAO
OPENS Nov. 28

SM STA. MESA
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1 MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 IDENTITY
3 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 LIBERATED
5 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
6 THE PHONE
7 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
8 UNDERWORLD
9 THE RUNDOWN
10 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER

SM SOUTHMALL
[illegible]
1 THE SPY
2 THE PHONE
3 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 THE RUNDOWN
5 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
6 UPTOWN GIRLS
7 MY FIRST ROMANCE
8 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
9 IDENTITY
10 LIBERATED

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
[illegible]
1 POSSESSED
2 IDENTITY
3 BELPHEGOR
4 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
5 LIBERATED
6 MY FIRST ROMANCE
7 THE RUNDOWN
8 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
9 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
10 MY FIRST ROMANCE
11 UNDERWORLD
12 THE PHONE

SM CITY DAVAO
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1 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2 INNER SENSES
3 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 MY FIRST ROMANCE
5 UNDERWORLD
6 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

SM CITY LUCENA
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1 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
3 BUGBOG SARADO
4 MY FIRST ROMANCE

SM MEGAMALL
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1 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
RESERVE-A-SEAT dial [illegible]
2 THE RUNDOWN
3 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
5 THE PHONE
6 IDENTITY
7 UNDERWORLD
8 THE SPY
9 LIBERATED
10 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
11 MY FIRST ROMANCE
12 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER

SM CINEMA TUTURAN
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1 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
3 LIBERATED
4 MY FIRST ROMANCE

SM CITY ILOILO
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1 PILYA
2 RESERVED
3 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 MY FIRST ROMANCE
5 UNDERWORLD
6 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
7 RESERVED
8 VISIBLE SECRET 2

SM CITY MANILA
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1 THE RUNDOWN
2 THE PHONE
3 UPTOWN GIRLS
4 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
5 IDENTITY
6 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
7 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
8 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
9 MY FIRST ROMANCE
10 POSSESSED
11 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
12 LIBERATED

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
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4 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

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3 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 10:50, 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30	6 MY FIRST ROMANCE 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
7 IDENTITY 110:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:55	9 THE SPY 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
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6 LIBERATED - 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40
7 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS - 10:15, 1:00, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30

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7 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
8 LIBERATED

Novaliches 935-3229 / 31
1 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
3 THE SPY
4 THE RUNDOWN
5 MY FIRST ROMANCE
6 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
7 THE PHONE
8 LIBERATED

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MY FIRST ROMANCE	3	LIBERATED
VISIBLE SECRET 2	4	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	5	MY FIRST ROMANCE
MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	6	INNER SENSES

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AMERICAN PSYCHO 2	4	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
BUGBOG SARADO	5	MY FIRST ROMANCE
SUCKERS	6	VISIBLE SECRET

Sta. Rosa Laguna (049)837-0807		Lipa, Batangas Old National Highway Marawoy Lipa
MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	1	THE RUNDOWN
THE RUNDOWN	2	FREAKY FRIDAY
LIBERATED	3	MAPUPULANG LABI
MY FIRST ROMANCE	4	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
SUCKERS	5	THE RUNDOWN

Malabon 288-0985/2575
Concepcion
1 LIBERATED
2 MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

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DASMARINAS, CAVITE
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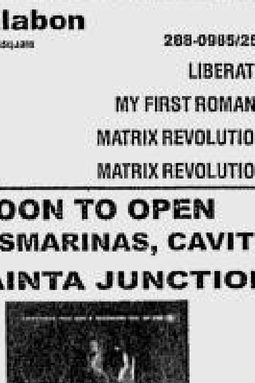

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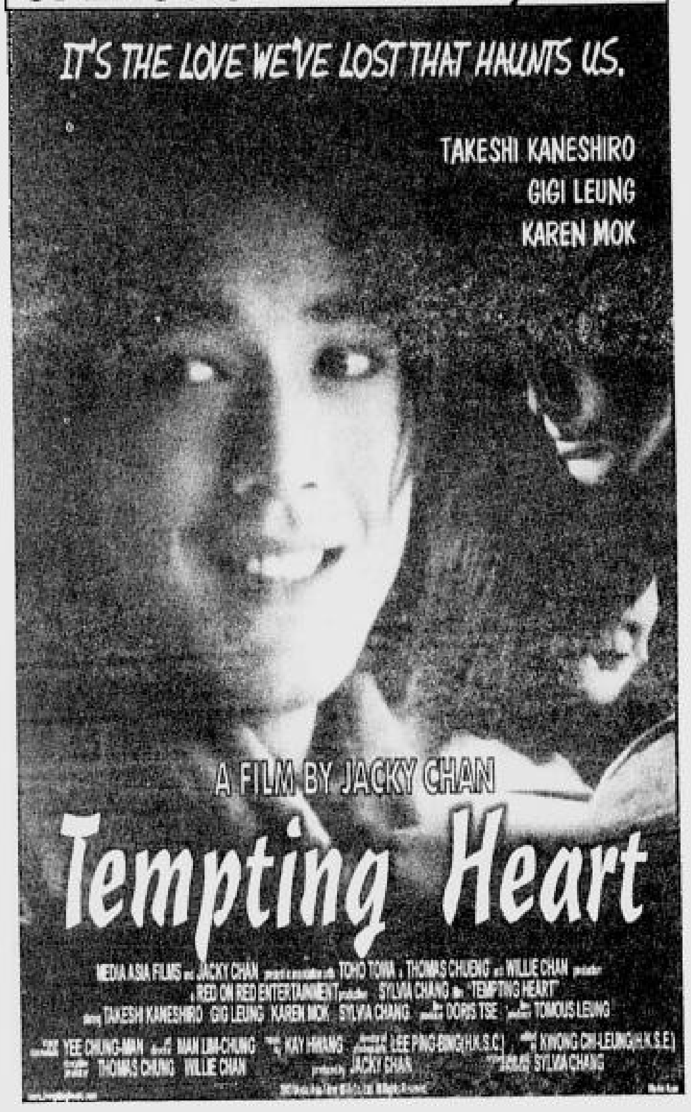
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MATRIX REVOLUTIONS PG13 12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30	IDENTITY R18 1:20, 3:25, 5:30, 7:35, 9:40	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS PG13 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30

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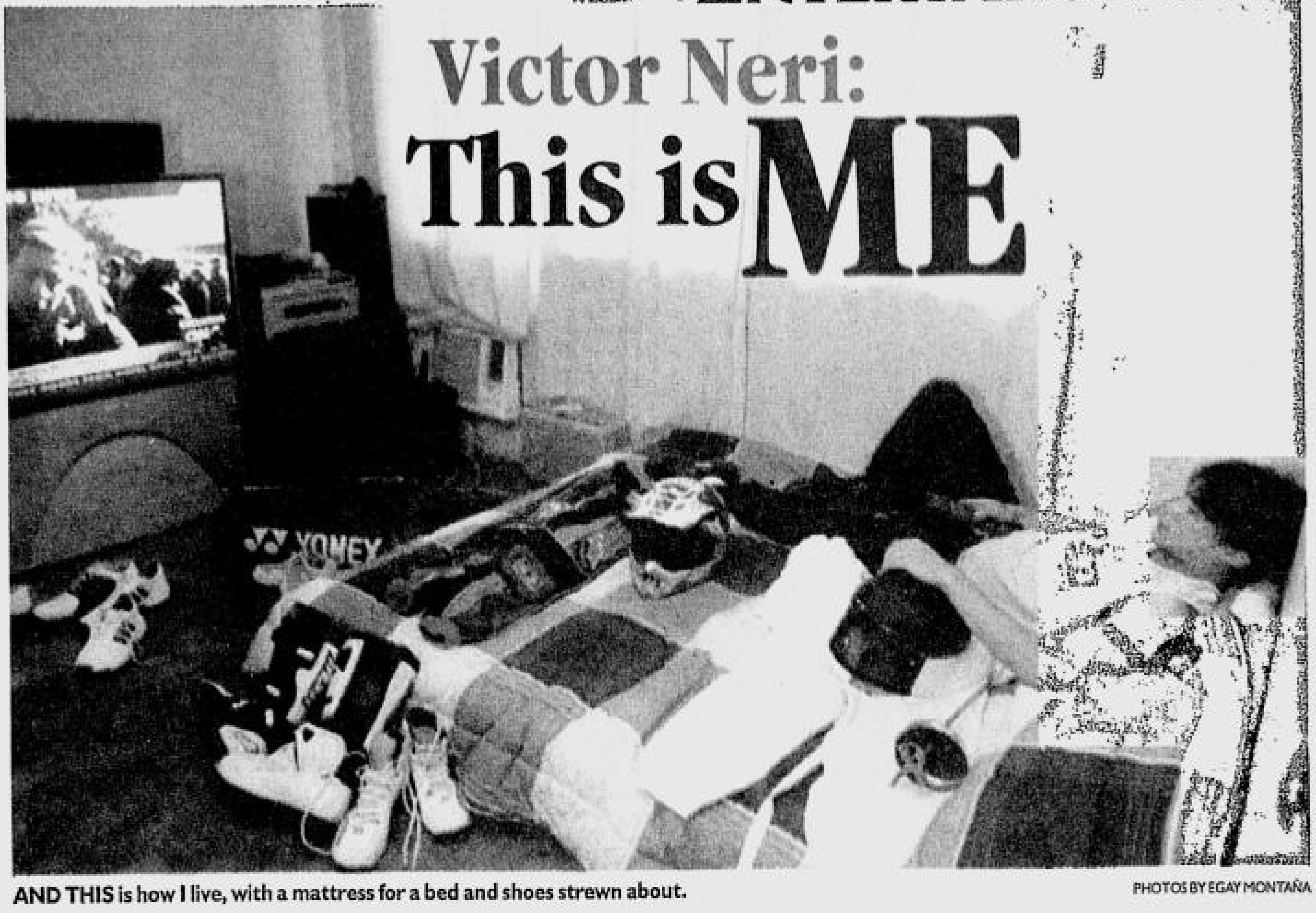
Victor Neri: This is ME



AND THIS is how I live, with a mattress for a bed and shoes strewn about.

PHOTOS BY EGAY MONTAÑA

DAD'S DITO. "It's not easy to be a father and an actor at the same time," he says.

LEGAL FENCING. He goes fencing on weekends, and turns to golf, motocross and badminton on other days.

OUT OF THE CLOSET

By Nini Valera

ACTOR Victor Neri is a cool dude.

Victor, 26, welcomes INQUIRER Entertainment into his two-bedroom flat in Greenhills, San Juan, without bothering to spruce up his place for the shoot.

"My manager (Vianna Forres) wanted me to clean up first," he says. "But why should I? This is me. This is how I live."

Victor lives in what advertising people would describe as "organized clutter." But his living room is minimalist—bare walls, blue curtain, androgynous area rug, sofa, coffee table with candles and a few books on top, footstool, and lamp.

His bedroom is miniscule by show biz standards. His bed, which is only a mattress on the floor, is sexless and utilitarian. His bed is covered by a comforter and faces his home theater.

"My lifestyle as an actor is already surreal," he says. "When I come home, I just want to crash in my bed on the floor."

His two closets are tiny, but crammed full of clothes and shoes. He has a mirror tucked in the inside of one of his closet doors where the picture of his son Dito, 3, also hangs.

"I have a mirror only because I was told I should have one," says Victor. "Otherwise, I wouldn't bother with a mirror. After all the glamour of (my life as an actor), I come home and become just me."

A shelf filled with his collection of CDs that spans the glorious '70s rock era stands in one corner of his room. In the racks are albums of Santana "before 'Oye Como Va,'" Eagles, Black Sabbath, Sting, Guns 'n Roses and other rock classics.

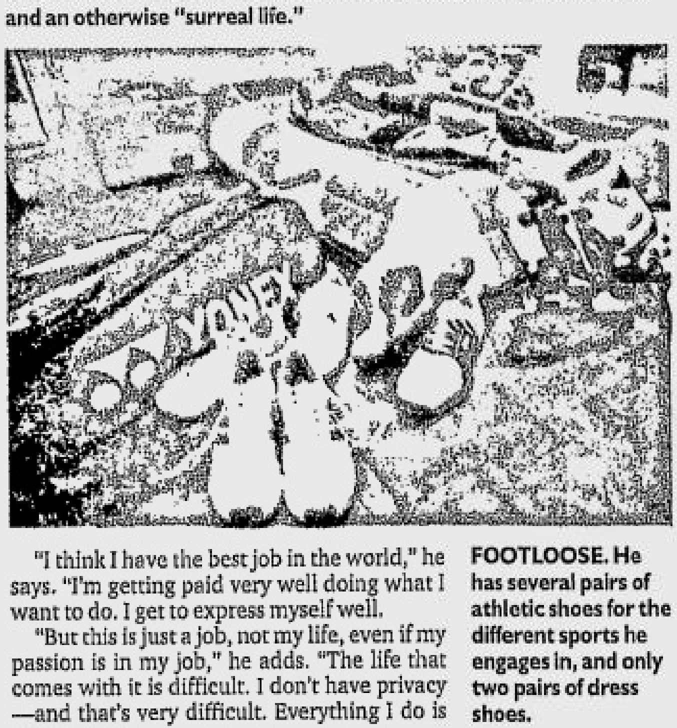
"I used to be a member of a band in high school," Victor reveals. "I played lead guitar and drums, and was the vocalist. I like old music, and listen to rock a lot. But I also like B.B. King, even pop rock. But old rock has more heart."

Like his choice of music, Victor is gritty and full of rough edges. These are seen in the tattoos on his arms, a Chinese character which means energy of the universe in the left arm, and a band of an American Indian tribe in the right arm. These are also reflected in the 23 pairs of Levi's jeans he owns and his countless cotton T-shirts in gray, black or white, which he wears as if he invented attitude.

While shooting a crowd scene for his filmfest movie "Filipinas," Victor, who plays the activist Emman in it, had to blend with the crowd of rallyists protesting the recent Manila visit of US President George W. Bush. He wore jeans and a white T-shirt emblazoned with "Stop Bush" in front.

Dressed this way, Victor melted into the sea of protesters as director Joel Lamangan shot the scene with hidden cameras. The protesters welcomed the actor to their ranks, shaking his hand and patting his back while thanking him for supporting their cause, recalls Victor. And no one knew where fiction ended and reality began.

ORGANIZED CLUTTER includes bare walls, racks of '70s rock CDs and an otherwise "surreal life."



FOOTLOOSE. He has several pairs of athletic shoes for the different sports he engages in, and only two pairs of dress shoes.

"I think I have the best job in the world," he says. "I'm getting paid very well doing what I want to do. I get to express myself well.

"But this is just a job, not my life, even if my passion is in my job," he adds. "The life that comes with it is difficult. I don't have privacy —and that's very difficult. Everything I do is magnified."

Quiet and brooding in real life, Victor watches people if they are not ogling him.

"I like being quiet and observing people," he confides. "That's one way of learning characters also."

In playing Emman, the activist son in the "Filipinas" family, Victor only had to look at his older brother for characterization.

"The peg for Emman is an activist from the University of the Philippines," he says. "They even specified UP Diliman. My brother is from UP in Diliman. I know him very well. I know how he thinks so I just imitated him and acted out the role the way I thought he would have behaved in a similar situation.

"UP activists are so idealistic, *makabayan*, with minds of their own. They also have their own world, and that is in the Diliman campus of UP.

"My brother has been in UP for seven years. *Ayaw nang umalis*. I think that when you enter UP, you would not want to leave because they have a sense of unity there.

Me, I took up a Business Administration course through the Department of Education. I have one more year to go. I'm still too lazy to finish."

As father to Dito, Victor says he tries to be the best parent.

"But like all celebrity fathers," he says, and his voice trails off. "Like I'm shooting out of town now and I have to stay there overnight. Tomorrow is Friday and I'm supposed to fetch him. But I can't do that since I'm here.

"It's not easy to be a father and an actor at the same time. Acting is something you must love doing, something you must really want."

Suits. He has two tailored by Inno Soto, as well as an off-the-rack Dior and a Paul Smith.

Jeans. He's got 23 pairs of Levi's in black, blue, green, baby green.

Tops. "I don't keep track of my wardrobe. When I see a black or a grey T-shirt, I usually buy it."

Underwear. Hanes.

Deodorant. Safeguard.

Toothpaste. Aqua Fresh.

Fragrance. "I only use perfume if I'm given a bottle as a gift."

Dress shoes. A couple of pairs

Athletic shoes. Two pairs of Yonnex rubber shoes for playing badminton, two pairs of Oakley golf shoes, No Fear footwear and MRS boots for motocross, and Shoei helmet, All-Star fencing suit and fencing sword, and addidas rubber shoes for fencing.

"I spend more on sporting equipment and gear than on clothes. When I'm not shooting, I play badminton every Monday, motocross on Tuesday, fencing on weekends, golf on Thursday or Friday."

Eyewear. Oakley. "I endorse the brand."

Bike. Yamaha.

"I do motocross to promote the sport."

Watch. "I don't wear a watch because I don't want to know the time."

Guitars. A Yamaha classic, a Gotin, two Fenders and a Paul Reed electric guitar.

Top fusion jazz groups at Monk's Dream festival

FOUR of Manila's top jazz fusion groups will share the spotlight in the Monk's Dream Fusion Jazz Fest at the Rockwell Power Plant tonight starting at 8 p.m.

To be hosted by Prof. Ron Nethercutt, Mishka Adams and Richie Quirino, the fusion festival features a diverse mix of styles ranging from big band, funk, Latin and rock.

Fusion jazz, a hybrid form of jazz spearheaded by the likes of Miles Davis and Tony Williams in the late '60s, combines improvisation with more complex rhythms and electronic elements.

Featured are the UP Jazz Ensemble, The Group, Pangea and JFK.

The UP Jazz Ensemble, composed of students from the UP College of Music and headed by Prof. Rayben Maigue, will perform mostly fusion pieces with a sprinkling of funk and Latin jazz.

The Group is composed of Ding Silverio on vocals, Jack Ruffo on guitar, Rommel de la Cruz on bass and Benjie Mendez on drums.

Pangea has Albert Albert on guitar, Wowee Posadas on piano, Jerry de Leon on bass.

JFK (Jazz for Kicks) has Sandra Lim on vocals, Lorrie Zamora on sax, Edgar Avenir on guitar, Joey Quirino on piano, Caloy Herrera on bass and Jun Viray on drums.

A highlight of the concert is the appearance of UK-based saxophonist Courtney Pine and his seven-piece group.

The Monk's Dream Fusion Jazz Fest is presented by Rockwell Land, Monk's Dream, clickthecity.com, Business World, Men's Zone, Lemon Magazine, Moreau Rouge, Cerveza Negra, San Miguel Corp., Joey's Rhythms 92.3 and the Jazz Society of the Philippines Foundation.

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'Homecoming' a tribute to OFWs

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

"HOMECOMING," filmmaker Gil Portes' 26th feature film, has the inevitable, awesome task of proving itself a worthy successor to the unanimously lauded "Mga Munting Tinig."

While "Munting Tinig" didn't make a killing at the box office, it has earned Portes four best director awards—including one from the Palm Beach International Film Festival—as well as raves for young actress Alessandra de Rossi. It became a beacon that showed Filipino films can indeed be competitive, even on foreign shores.

As follow-up to that pride-stroking endeavor, "Homecoming," one of the entries in the 2003 Metro Manila Film Festival, is another drama focusing on familiar ills. De Rossi portrays Abigail Edades, a young caregiver who returns to her hometown of San Isidro after years of working in Canada. She is unaware that she has contracted a new disease called SARS, or Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

Tribute

"The background is SARS, but the film is a tribute to the bravery and courage of OFWs (Overseas Filipino Workers), the unsung heroes of the country," Portes says, adding that he has a soft spot for Filipinos working abroad.

"*Marami na akong pelikula tungkol sa mga* OFW, because this subject matter is very close to my heart," he says. "I live in New York. I travel. My life is a journey. I really know how it is to be an expat. It's not easy to live abroad, even if you have the material goods. *Hindi ka pa rin taga-roon.*"

He claims that the effort involved in directing "Homecoming" isn't that much different from his prior projects. "The challenges are basically the same," he says. "Of course, the script is different, because we didn't want to come up with a very melodramatic and sad story. But it remained poignant. That is the deeper challenge of the film."

The entire project took a total of six months to finish (with only a small fraction of that devoted to shooting), which was made smoother with the perfect casting choices.

"It's a breeze," he says. "This is the first time I worked with Elizabeth Oropesa. I had a very competent cast. They knew what to do."

OROPESA. First time in a Portes movie

Young actors James Blanco, Lester Llansang, and Bryan Homecillo, and veteran thespian Bembol Roco also star.

High praise for direk

Multi-awarded Oropesa, who plays a tormented but caring mother to De Rossi's character, has high praise for the director. "He's very good," she says. "*Ang pagiging magaling niya ay kakaiba sa ibang 'magkakapatid' na magaling na direktor.*" She is referring to a roster which includes Ishmael Bernal, Marilou Diaz-Abaya, Joel Lamangan and Portes himself.

"Foreign *ang* attack," she adds, "*Napakasimple, at ang magdadala ay hindi lamang ang artista, kundi* the whole team. That's his style. *Kumbaga, may* division of labor, *pero ang kabuuan ang nagdadala.*"

Working a second time with Portes, De Rossi points out the rapport between her and the director has allowed for more comfortable working conditions. "*Mas may* bonding *na kami*," she says. "*Sa 'Munting Tinig,' medyo nahihiya-hiya pa ako. Ngayon, kahit kapag* rehearsal, *nagpapatawa pa rin ako, naglalaro. Hindi siya nagagalit sa akin, kasi alam niyang pagdating ng* take, *aayusin ko naman.*"

She admits to an initial nervousness in working with the respected and intense Oropesa, or "Tita Oro," as De Rossi fondly calls her. "*Siyempre, noong una, natakot ako. Na-*'afraidy Aguilar' *ako, kasi sabi ng* manager *ko, 'Galingan mo, kasi magaling 'yon.' Sinasabi-sabi nila, 'Huwag kang magpapatalo!'*"

"*Sabi ko,*" she adds, laughing, "'*Naku naman, ayokong galingan, kasi baka magmukha akong* O.A. (over-acting)!"

She highly recommends the film for various reasons: "*Hindi lang ito tungkol sa* SARS. *Ang dami mong matututunan sa pamilya, sa* love life, *sa pagmamahal. Basta,* as in! *Maganda ito. At saka maganda ako sa pelikula!*"

LIFE AS A JOURNEY. "I know how it is to be an expat," says Portes, directing Llansang.

> 'The illness portrayed in the movie represents the social ills of the country'

Portes' co-writers on "Homecoming," Senedy Que and Adolf Alix, were also his collaborators on "Mga Munting Tinig."

"It's a more universal film than it looks," says Que. "It's like a wake-up call. The illness that is being portrayed in the movie is representative of the social ills of the country, and how people are paralyzed by it."

Adds Alix, "The SARS issue is just a catalyst to how people will react to certain prejudices. Basically, the audience can relate also because it's a family drama."

18-year wait

Portes is still giddy that his successful "Mga Munting Tinig" is still being seen abroad.

"For the first time, my movie had national distribution in the States," he says. "It opened in San Francisco, and is still showing in New York and Los Angeles. Including Canada, we have 12 prints going around. The reception is good, and so are the reviews in the New York Times, LA Times, San Francisco Chronicle and other newspapers.

"It might sound O.A., but the first time I saw the title 'Small Voices' on a theater marquee in a New York Cinema *sa* Village East *sa* 12th Street and 2nd Avenue, I was misty-eyed. I waited for this for almost 18 years."

He hopes that it will also make the rounds in European theaters, eventually. The film has also generated buzz for "Homecoming," and more foreigners have become interested in seeing his past films as well.

"Even before, I had always desired to make good movies," he recounts. "*Hindi lang 'yan sa 'Munting Tinig' nag-umpisa.* "'Merika,' 'Miguel/Michelle,' 'Saranggola,' 'Markova,' 'Gatas sa Dibdib ng Kaaway,' all these films were noticed in foreign film festivals. All these contributed to my growth as an artist, and to my being recognized in international circuits."

A book that compiles the scripts of "Mga Munting Tinig" and "Homecoming" is being published by the UST Press and will be launched on Nov. 21 at SM Megamall's Cinema 1. The book launch coincides with the premiere screening of "Homecoming."

It will make you cry, or it will . . .

From page C8

hero, stops being a genuine human being altogether, and turns into just another infectious-disease carrier that needs containment.

From the experiences of the late Adela Dalingay and the other Filipinos who died of SARS, all of whom the film pays tribute to, it seems they culled a laundry list of the fates the victims suffered and depicted these through Abigail. The film succeeds in conveying the hornet's nest of ignorance, incompetence, apathy and prejudice that made the victims' fates all the more hellish. The abandonment of friends, relatives and lovers. The hospitals and medical professionals who refused to provide them care. The government officials who considered them pariahs and whose cosmetic, red carpet, welcome treatment was instantly replaced by insidious apathy and abuse. The media frenzy that further incited fears and isolated the victims from help.

"Homecoming" doesn't try to protect its audience from discomfort and sensation. In fact, it doesn't even give a damn for subtlety—and rightly so. For some, this could be a weeper that is guaranteed to boost tissue paper stock.

For others like me, the film just makes you angry.

Emotionally devastating

Regardless of where you belong, "Homecoming" is compassionate, compelling, emotionally devastating. Like the direction and script, which are on the mark most of the way, the lead and supporting performances are solid. De Rossi and Oropesa, together with Bembol Roco as Abigail's father, are an acting tour de force. They lend much humanity and vibrancy to their roles and make the story all the more mournful, aided by the musical score (by Arnel del Rosario and Nilo Alcala), which embraces over-sentimentality like a long, lost friend.

Not a few, I suppose, would say that since the SARS scare is over, this film scores no points for timeliness. But that would not be true. Abigail's story is just as relevant today as it was when SARS was threatening.

Hopefully, "Homecoming" would be an assurance that people like Adela and all the other OFWs who suffered both natural and man-afflicted adversities would not immediately vanish into obscurity. As long as we can remember, there's a chance we can change things.

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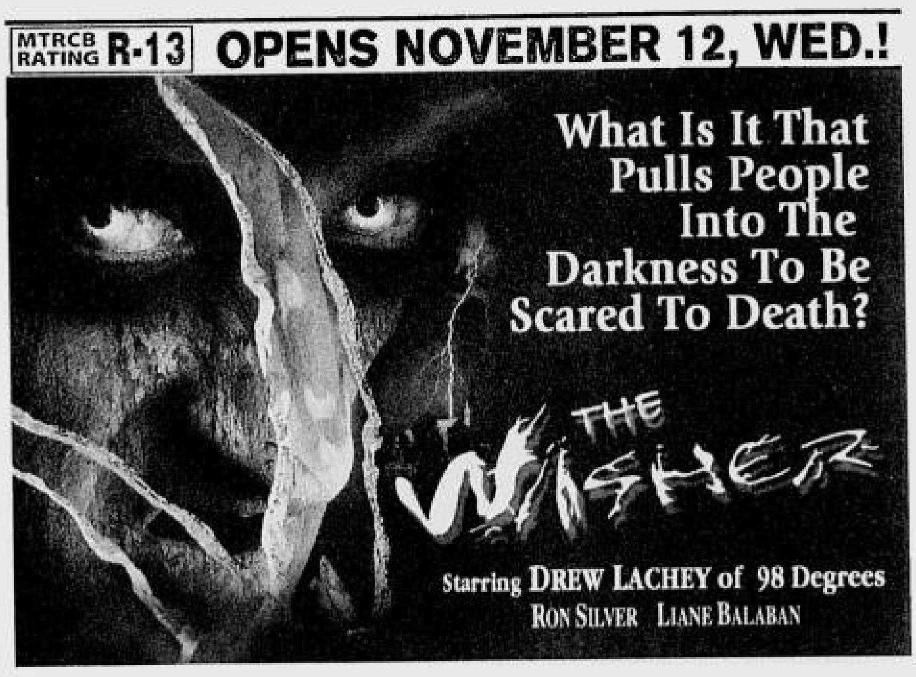

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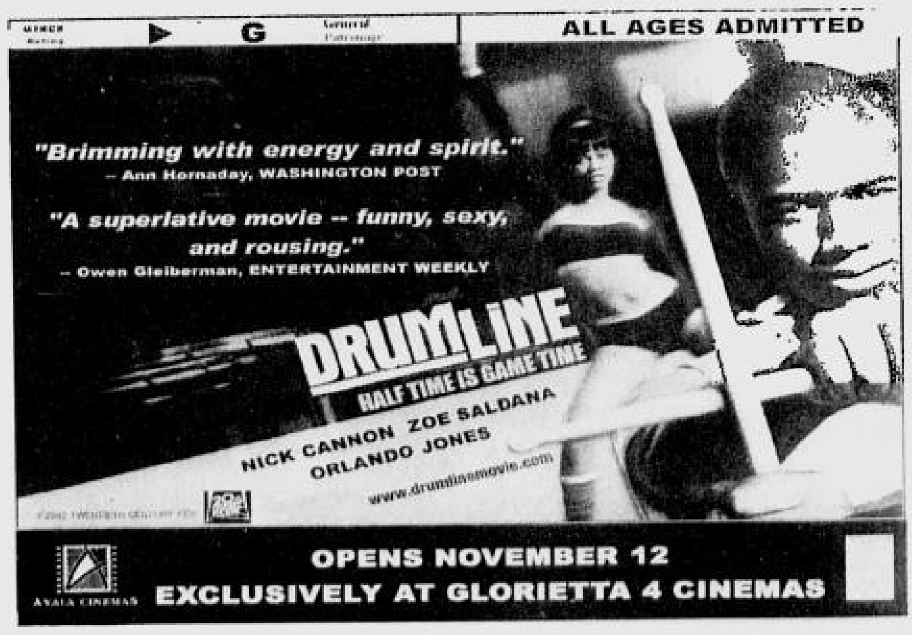

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From award winning director Mira Nair (Salaam Bombay, Mississippi Masala, The Perez Family, & Kama Sutra: A Tale of Love), Monsoon Wedding is a fun, heartwarming tribute to family that Carey Rickey of the Philadelphia Inquirer calls "a banquet of heart."
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

DID YOU KNOW...

During the taping of the Claudia Zobel story, shown on ABS-CBN's "Maalaala Mo Kaya" last Thursday, eerie things happened on the set. Two lights exploded one after the other while a love scene was being shot with **Assunta de Rossi**, who played Claudia, and **Christian Vasquez**, who played Claudia's boyfriend. A tree branch fell on the buffet table at a party scene. The uncanny incidents prompted Assunta to shout, "*Itigil na natin 'to!*" (Let's stop this!).

Fanny launches new cosmetics

SERRANO

AFTER opening a couture boutique recently, celebrity makeup guru Fanny Serrano launches his line, Fanny Serrano by F21 Cosmetics, in a triple-treat affair tomorrow, Nov. 11, at Ballroom B of the Makati Shangri-La.

A strictly invitational affair, the launch starts at 11 a.m. with a media bash to be hosted by Cherie Gil. In the "Magic Hour" at 2 p.m., Fanny's makeup artist friends and salon owners will conduct a product knowledge demonstration on the new cosmetic line.

The formal launch of Fanny's cosmetics will start at 6 p.m., via a fashion show to be headlined by the newly crowned Miss Earth.

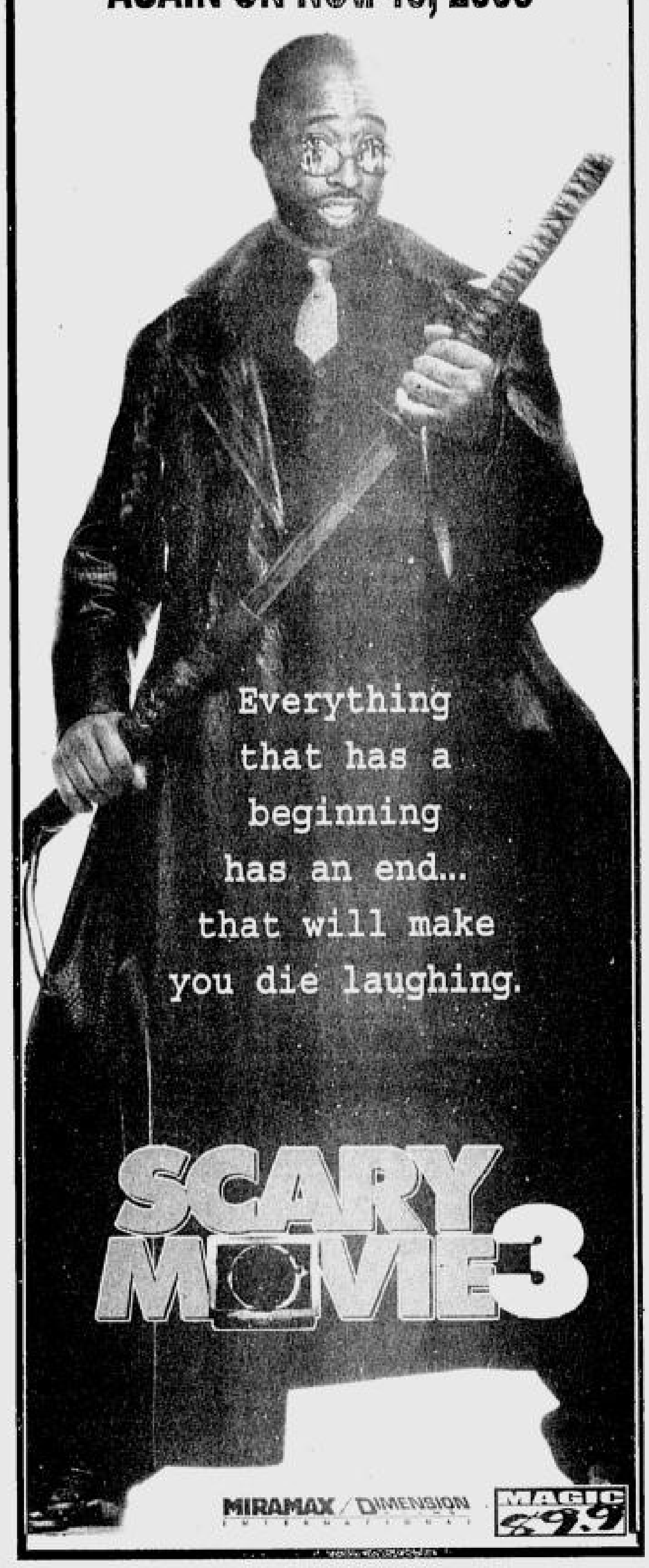
The cosmetics, developed abroad under Fanny's direction, include cake foundation, loose powder, concealer, eye shadow, blusher, lipstick, eyebrow pencil, lip liner and mascara.

They are available at all department stores and malls beginning Nov. 12.

The finale will be graced by Fanny's clients led by Megastar Sharon Cuneta, Vilma Santos, Ara Mina, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Celia Rodriguez, Charlene Gonzales and Charo Santos-Concio.

Robbie Carmona directs the events.

REVOLUTION STARTS ALL OVER AGAIN ON NOV. 19, 2003


Everything that has a beginning has an end... that will make you die laughing.
SCARY MOVIE 3
MIRAMAX / DIMENSION INTERNATIONAL
MAGIC 89.9

Araneta Center

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
Ali 2	LIBERATED
Ali 3	THE RUNDOWN
Ali 4	MATRIX REVOLUTION
Ali 5	MATRIX REVOLUTION
Ali 6	DUCK WATER
Ali 7	THE SPY

ARANETA COLISEUM

NOV 9	PBA GAMES
NOV 10	NCA NATIONAL 8-STAG DERBY
NOV 12	NCA NATIONAL 8-STAG DERBY
NOV 14	NCA NATIONAL 8-STAG DERBY
NOV 16	PBA GAMES

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MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	LIBERATED
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	LIBERATED
B	
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-2	LIBERATED
CINEMA-3	POSSESSED
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MATRIX REVOLUTION
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SPY
CINEMA-6	UTANG NG AMA
CINEMA-7	IDENTITY
CINEMA-8	THE PHONE
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MATRIX REVOLUTION
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MATRIX REVOLUTION
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	MATRIX REVOLUTION
CINEMA-12	RUNDOWN
CINEMA-14	LIBERATED
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It will make you cry, or it will make you angry

TEARS FOR FEARS. Only the heartless will not sympathize with the plight of De Rossi (left), who plays the daughter of Oropesa. Below, the family's youngest member, a SARS victim, is buried by (from right) Oropesa, Roco, Llansang and De Rossi's suitor Christopher Malonzo.

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.
Contributor

REVIEW

WE often look at films essentially as a means of entertainment. But there are filmmakers out there who are well aware of the power of the medium to change people's hearts, and sometimes, even to knock on a nation's conscience.

I hope that "Homecoming," the upcoming film of director Gil Portes, will do both.

In the film, Alessandra de Rossi plays Abigail Edades, a Filipino caregiver working in Canada who goes home to her hometown unaware that she's carrying the SARS virus. As her tragic tale unfolds, the question in my mind is not whether the people who would see the film would sympathize with her plight—only the truly heartless would not—but whether or not that sympathy will open up a different perspective on overseas Filipino workers.

While OFWs are often hailed as the nation's modern-day heroes—their $6-billion average annual remittances help keep the Philippine economy afloat—Portes and his co-writers, Senedy Que and Adolf Alix conspire to give as a rare glimpse of the real world of the OFWs, where, with so many hopes, expectations and pressures on their backs, they might as well be the victims as they are the symbols and caricatures a poor country paints them to be.

Hero's welcome

In the opening scene, we find Abigail being welcomed by her whole town with no less than a sumptuous feast prepared by her mother (played by Elizbeth Oropesa) from Abigail's own hard-earned money. She's uncomfortable with all the fuzz showered on her by her neighbors, one of whom, a schoolteacher, even tells her students in class to work hard so that they can someday also go overseas and earn dollars.

When a student argues that Filipinos should invest their efforts in their own country, the teacher shoots down the incredulous notion, saying that such rhetoric is just a pathetic lie politicians perpetrate. The teacher says that while poor Filipinos like them cast their lot in their country because they have no other option, politicians hypocritically give rah-rah patriotic speeches even as they stash their riches abroad and send their kids to exclusive foreign schools.

Debts to pay

Indeed, it seems that for the entire town, Abigail's path is the only one they could take to rise above their circumstances. They are both proud and envious of her, and even her mother has conflicting emotions about her homecoming. She thinks that Abigail's five years in Canada is too short. They still have debts to pay, a small business yet to be put up, and her brothers are not even finished with their schooling. She's spiteful that Abigail is marrying her long-time boyfriend Melvin (James Blanco) despite all these responsibilities hovering over their lives.

As if there isn't enough on Abigail's plate, she also has to contend with one of her brother's drug habit, her parent's messy separation—and of course, that cold that just won't go away.

Losing all hope

The source of one's lamentation is definitely not just Abigail's SARS affliction. The film makes it clear that there are many things to be sad about in her life, small tragedies that we have become so accustomed to in this country that they do seem now to be merely ordinary. Yet, even when Abigail stares sleeplessly into the darkness in one scene, one can still sense her hope that better times are within her grasp.

All this hope vanishes, however, along with the adoration the town has accorded her, when Abigail's real illness is discovered.

Portes and his writers are frank and to-the-point in telling us what happens to Abigail next, when she stops being a modern-day

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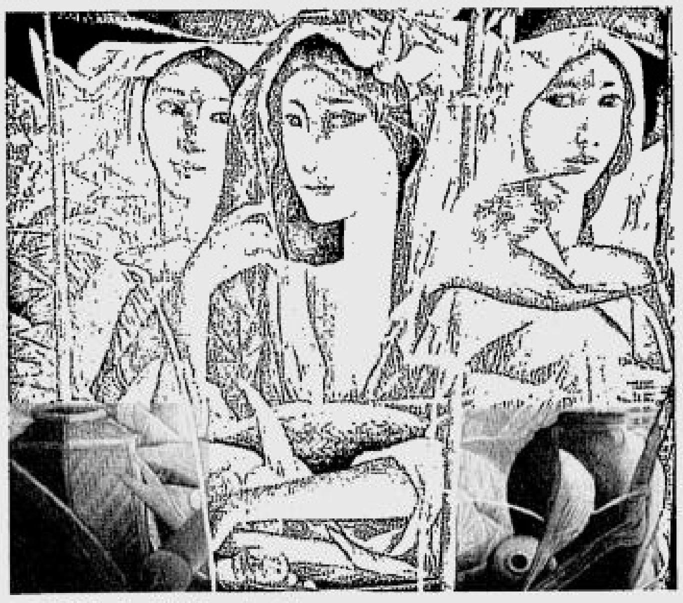


"TRES Marias," by Tam Austria

Tam Austria holds an exclusive two day exhibit; Bandalan paints bountiful nature

The artist as philosopher

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

NEARLY three months after his 60th birthday, Tam P. Austria—painter, book author and philosopher—finds himself neck-deep in the flurry of preparations for a major exhibit of his recent works.

The Austria show at Makati Shangri-La Hotel is admittedly far from modest. But it is doubly significant, as the artist will be sharing with art afficionados the unique philosophy that propels his artistic life.

Titled "Beauty and Joy," the two-day exhibit of 30 oil paintings (Nov. 14-15) is an elaboration of the artist's view of art that espouses an equilibrium of thought, beauty and order, and balance founded on his philosophy of "Recreamindoism."

Since launching his book, "Recreamindoism Rena," four years ago in the same venue, Austria has become its most staunch proponent, living his tenet of recreating or renewing the mind, as inspired by locally integrated principles he gathered from Eastern cultures.

Immersing himself in the writings of John Dewey, Zola, Flaubert, Berkeley and Kant, as well as the teachings in the Holy Bible, Austria has been talking about ways of harnessing one's inner gifts for the higher goal of the good of the world and humankind.

The artist's own ascent in the art world has been fueled by native talent, hard work and a solid family life, qualities imbibed in his youth. Born in the bucolic town of Tanay, he first saw art through the illustrations of Fernando Amorsolo.

Profound effect

It is said this early initiation to art through the master had a most profound effect on the nascent artist, who would finish, at age six, his portrait of his mother Raymunda. By the time he was 14, he had completed his first oil painting, of Christ with a crown of thorns, an impressive work that surprised his teachers.

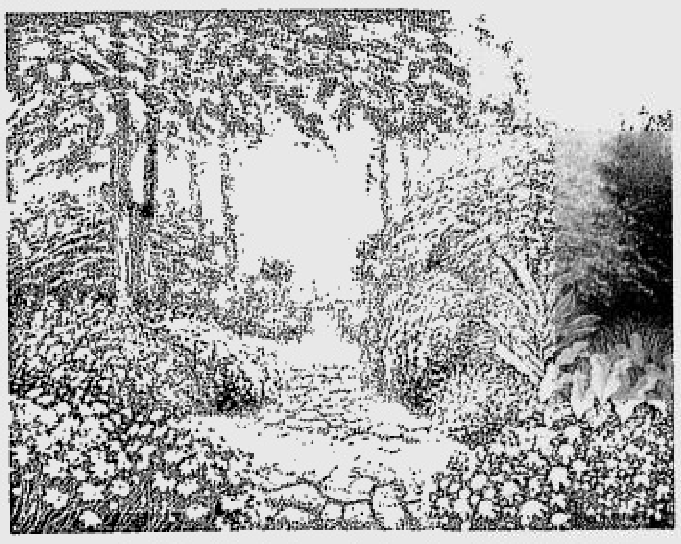
It was through sheer hard work and perseverance that Austria managed to finish, in 1964, his studies in Fine Arts at University of Santo Tomas, under the tutelage of Victorio Edades, who became National Artist.

Venturing into advertising illustrations, he became an assistant to Carlos "Botong" Francisco, who encouraged him to join the Ayala Museum's Philippine History and Iconographic Archives. His first job was designing the diorama of the country's colorful history.

Finally Discovered by the Zobel de Ayala family, he was commissioned to paint a religious mural in St. Anthony Chapel at Forbes Park. After his first one-man show in 1970 in Oakland, California, the artist had established himself, ready to conquer the art world, holding successful shows in France, London, New York and Singapore.

The son of humble Tanay peasants has become one of the sought-after artists in the country, a favorite of art collectors enamored with his distinctive style, a rare fusion of form and content transcending the narrative or symbolic implication. Merging the romantic and the classic in his depiction of such icons as the Mother and Child and the Filipino family, the artist has adhered to his inspired imagery of Philippine rural life. Austria's oeuvre speaks of travel and migration, recurring themes rendered in his trademark ethereal style.

TAM Austria



"FLORAL Path," by Antonio Bandalan

His own niche

Austria's style of figuration is fervidly religious, celebrating the familial bonding that is unmistakably Filipino. The artist has earned a niche for his child-like adoration of his theme and dogged preoccupation with the peasant folk, their customs and traditions, the unchanging panorama of all that is good, beautiful and inspiring about the Filipino. Austria insists they are there precisely because of their timeless and universal appeal, reflecting basic truths emblematic of the Filipino identity.

Austria's long list of achievements includes the Top Five in the Mobil Art Awards in 1982, Outstanding Citizen Award of Rizal in 1990, and the Intellectuals of the 21st Century bestowed on him this year by the Biographical Centre in Cambridge, England.

In the Makati Shangri-La show organized by The Choice Expression Gallery, Austria invests his gallery of characters with the same robust spirit and infectious gaiety that have endeared him to collectors. As always, craft and vision fuse and merge in his work, the lives of simple rural folk captured in enviable fidelity.

As an added treat to his audience, the artist will speak on his art and share his insights on beauty and joy at 4 p.m. on the second day, Nov. 15. A limited edition of his 2004 full-color desk calendar will also be available during the show.

Call Jerome at tel. 5319285, and Bong at 2843282.

Paradise

Another show that manifestly pays homage to beautiful nature is "Eden," (Galerie Y, until Nov.

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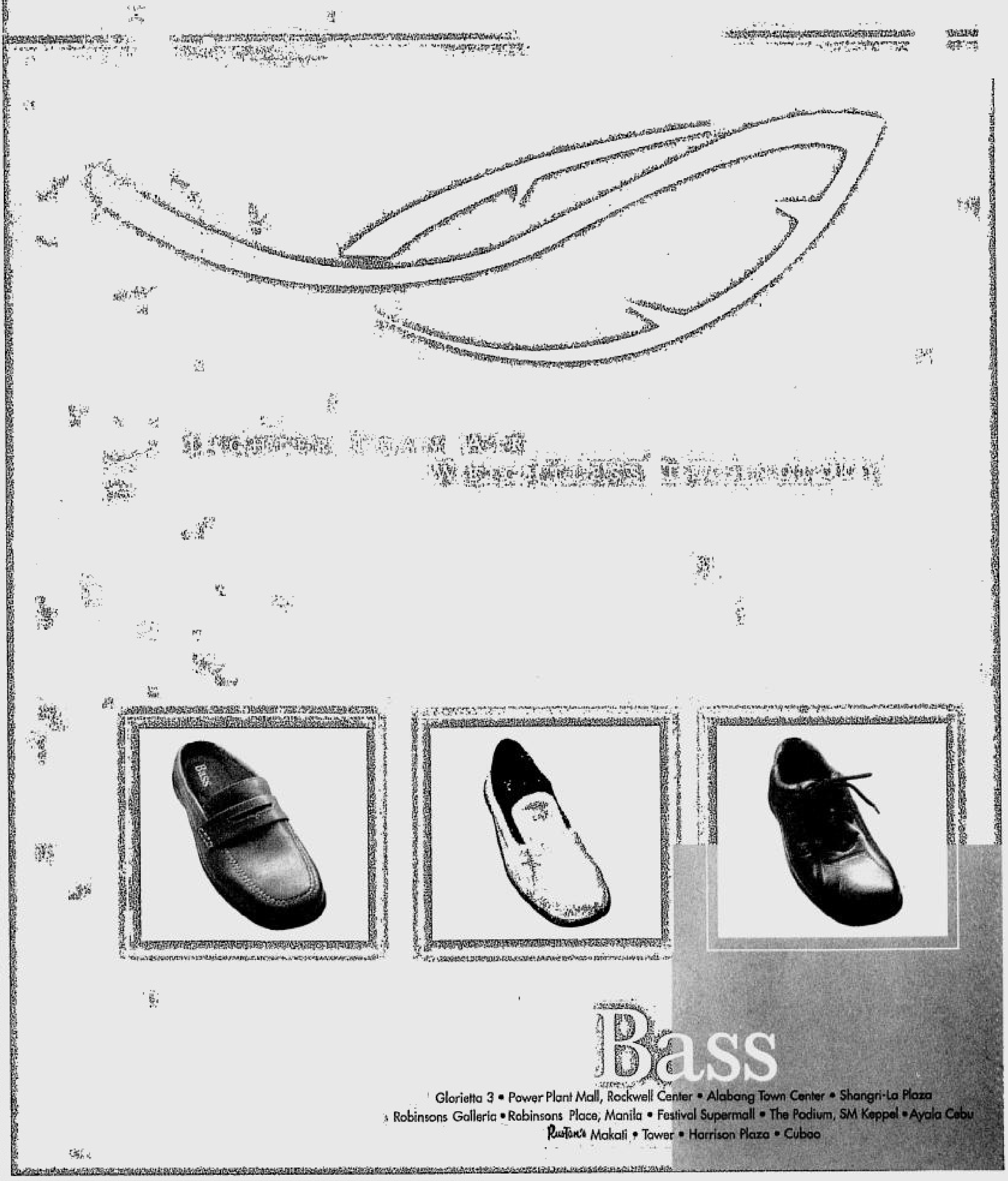

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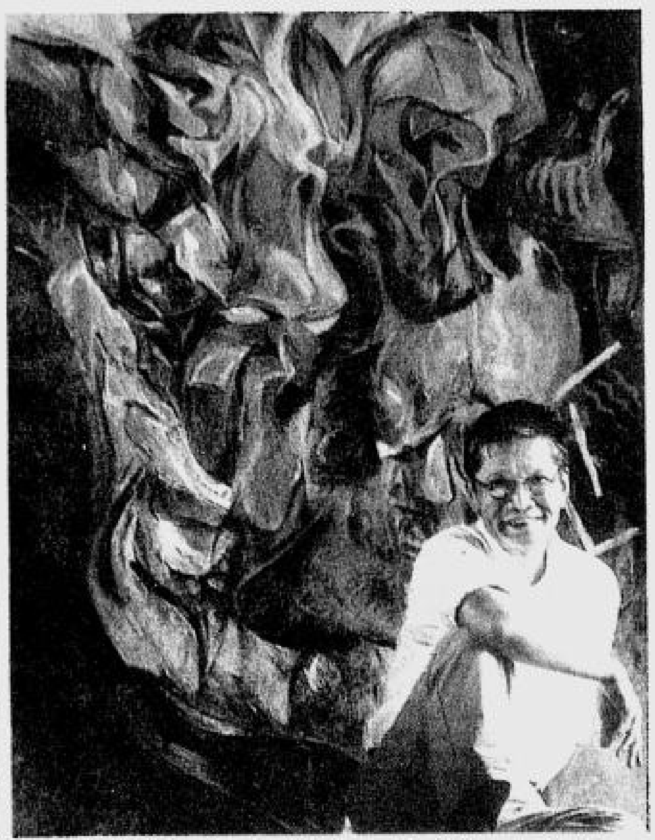
Wilwayco enters his blue period



WILWAYCO before the graceful blue swirls of "Conquering the Wall"

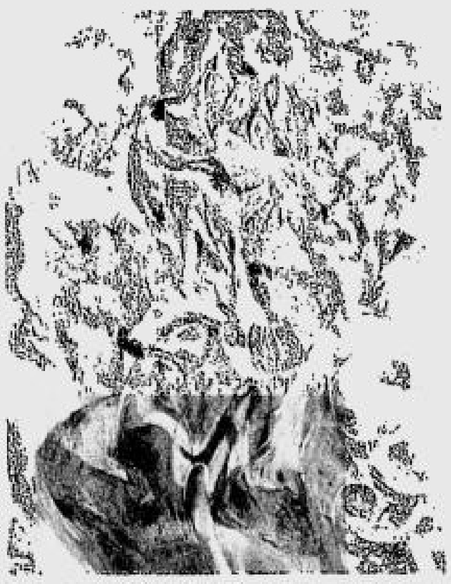
"WILWAYCO'S Blues," Edwin Wilwayco's 11th one-man show, at the Art Center of SM Megamall which opens on Nov. 15 with an artist's reception, marks the newest stage in his life and art.

Organized by Galeria Duemila, "Wilwayco's Blues"—not to be confused with American R&B with its melancholy, feeling-low lyrics and often raw emotions—is the artist's exaltation of the sublime and divine.

The "Blues" series comes at the heels of his "Excelsis" and "Transcendence" collections, exhibited in March this year at the Drawing Room in Makati, which, in the words of writer Abe Florendo of Cebu's Zee magazine, "rattled the pearly gates with [Wiwayco's] insistent questioning of 'What's heaven like?'"

"Wilwayco's Blues" takes its own unique place in the history of art. Blue, writes art critic Cid Reyes on Wilwayco's works in the Hong Kong publication Asian Art News, is the favored color of the modernists Picasso (his blue series), Van Gogh (his wheatfields and starry nights), and the artists of religious images (especially the blue robes of the Virgin Mary) and the pharaohs of ancient Egypt.

"No doubt," writes Cid Reyes, "Wilwayco intended the Blues works as 'religious' paintings. Indeed, even without the allusions of his titles to the deity, the works emit a field of energy, a halation of light, suggesting transcendence."



"PROVIDENCE in Blue"

On this theological side of abstract expressionism, Reyes quotes Sir Kenneth Clark from the latter's book "Looking at Pictures": "Art must do something more than give pleasures: It should relate to our own life so as to increase our energy of spirit."

No words could be more appropriate to describe the meaning or purpose of Wilwayco's newest transcendence. The titles of his "Blues" works—on canvas or on sculptural oil on wood or canvas—like "Eternal Ascension," the intensely spiritual "Embraced by the Light," "Triune," "The Spiral Stairway," are like guideposts to a serene and meditative life in the spirit.

"True to the color's connotation of spirituality," writes Cid Reyes, "not to mention its explicit allusion to the vast open skies, blue animates the canvases of Wilwayco to the extent of whipping up a whirlpool of emotions... with the viewer caught up between a tension of... turmoil and stillness."

Test your emotional response to "Wilwayco's Blues" at the Art Center, 4/L, Bldg. A. SM Megamall. The show runs until Nov. 29.

Among the guests of honor at the opening are Nelly C. Chua, Mon and Abby Jimenez, Cid Reyes, Mandy and Charrie Reyes, Jamby Madrigal-Valade and Joji Gotianum Yap.

Call 8319990, 6343261, e-mail duemila@mydestiny.net or www.galeriaduemila.com

Fresh art from old ideas

By Constantino C. Tejero

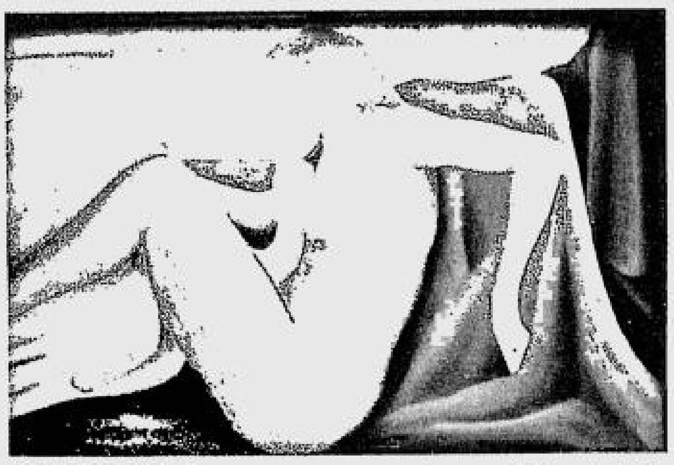
A PROVOCATIVE show is "By Way of Discourses," until today in Art Elements Asian Gallery at Artwalk, 4/L, Bldg. A, SM Megamall.

This is a group exhibit of 11 graduate students of the Master of Fine Arts program of University of the Philippines. They belong to two classes in Advance Art Theory in 2D and 3D Art, under Prof. Tina Colayco.

The artists include: Amby Abaño, Benjie Cabangis, Sergio Bumatay, Neil de la Cruz, Lionel Dumelod, Dakila Fernando, Noel Flores, Jaime Pacena, Amando Santos III, Mary Ann Tobias and Ulysses Veloso.

Colayco says the exhibit is meant to be discourses on "various intellectual forms of analysis of and inquiries into art, art theory and history, from the Renaissance to 20th-century Postmodernism." The results are fresh and exciting.

Only three or four artworks appear in the section "Significance of Form and Space," which is relatively complex and more academic. But the few pieces are impressive.



"RENAISSANCE," by Ulysses Veloso

Cabangis' "Concealment" I and II, canvas strips creatively folded, glued and covered with epoxy, then painted gray and beige, look like basso-relievo in marble.

"With marine epoxy as surface veneer for an object like canvas," explains the artist, "one strips off its excessive details, transforming it into a pure reminder of its formalist essence. The re-surfacing of the canvas changes its form and presence as the new covering or skin produces a new sculptural form."

Fernando's "Significant Space," acrylic on canvas, is a brilliant geometric pattern of primary colors with touches of green and marginal dashes of orange.

The artist says the image rendered by the impasto technique, the textures, the manipulation of space, lines and shapes, is meant to "invite a plurality of meanings."

Sex and religion

In the section "Religious Iconography" is Santos' "Aba Ginoong Maria, Napupuno Ka ng Grasya...," mixed media on ready-made fiberglas. The icon of Our Lady of Fatima is splattered with white, blue and gold paint and inscribed with the text of the Hail, Mary in Tagalog.

Here, the lovely image has been made lovelier still, and the idea of the prayer transformed quite literally. In its transformative intent, from icon to object to surface, the piece is "an exploratory approach to a linguistic query."

Explains the artist: "A prayer text cloaks an objectified icon, bringing to focus the power of the written word as a manner of adoration, that is, prayer in the context of continuous graceful applications on the form."

Meanwhile, recognizing that the Pieta is "a powerful and moving religious narrative, symbol and theme that has been transformed and depicted since the Early Christian era," Pacena investigates Michelangelo's heroic sculpture. Using digital print, lacquer and letraset, he has come up with "The Acceptance of Fate" and "The Dead Christ," compelling deconstructive illustrations in red, violet, yellow, blue, black and gray.

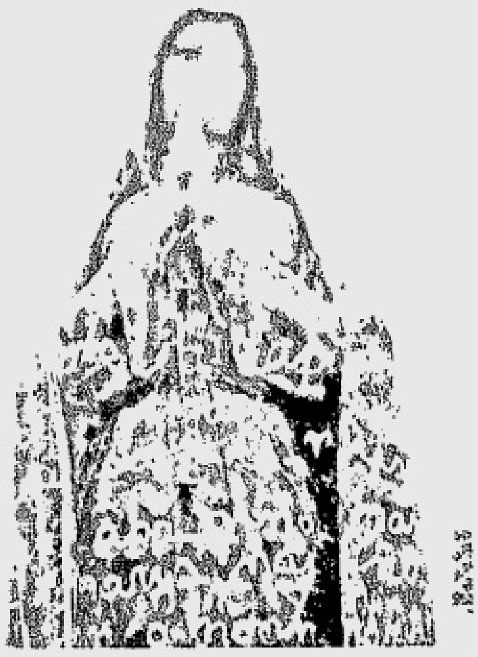
Most of the artworks belong, unsurprisingly, to the section "Feminism and Sexuality."

Veloso, who also curates this show, reveals he has arrived at a discourse that "man is by nature focused on his sexuality, and perhaps a slave to the act of lovemaking." Thus, his "Root of Life," in stainless steel, brass and marble, probably inspired by Brancusi, is a fluid, elegant, semi-abstract sculptural representation of the male and female genitalia.

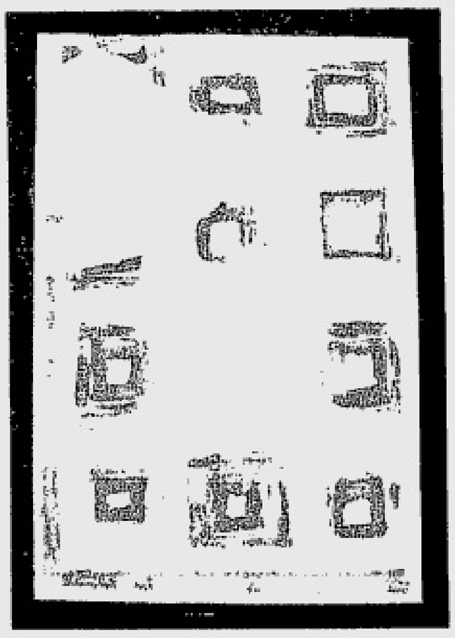
His "Renaissance," oil on canvas, is a delicious-looking reinterpretation in gold, white, deep orange and cobalt-blue of the famous painting "Leda and the Swan." Here, the compliant naked woman's curves and the huge aggressive swan's phallic contour are echoed, thus magnified, by the folds of the drapes and the upthrusting rock formations in the misty landscape.

Note that Leda and the swan (actually the wily Jove in one of his disguises) engendered Helen, the Spartan queen who set into motion the 10-year Trojan War, one of the most world-shaking sexo-political entanglements of ancient times.

Meanwhile, Abaño wants to show that the ultimate standard of female beauty is a myth. Thus, in "Unfinished Venus," oil on canvas, based on a Renaissance painting of a reclining nude, he has rendered visible the pencil lines of the drawing amid the paint's flesh tones with pinkish shading, cobalt-blue drapery and very red pillows.



"ABA Ginoong Maria, Napupuno Ka ng Grasya...," by Amando Santos III



"SIGNIFICANT Space," by Dakila Fernando

In "Deconstructing Venus," collage with dry point, based on Boticelli's "The Birth of Venus," he has broken the anatomy and strewn the canvas with text of dictionary entries for *idolatry, sensual, sexy, illusion, fictitious*.

After stripping away the myth, the artist has come up with "The Essence," oil on canvas, an astonishing top view of a calla lily in incandescent white, yellow and blue, reminiscent of Georgia O'Keefe's images of calyx as labia. This, to Abaño, must be the ideal of female beauty.

Subversive works

Tobias' "Old Love," clay, and "The Embrace," oil on canvas, are meant to differentiate sensuality from eroticism. The white stoneware, Rodin-like, depicts two lovers kissing with their bodies apart, while the painting in yellow, ochre and gray, Klimt-like, has another couple in the grip of a full-bodied embrace.

FRESH/ D3

WEST Gallery (SM Megamall) will exhibit the latest works of Songcayawon on Nov. 13-25. The artist lends visual splendor to Revelation 19:11-19 in his "Series on White Horses' Glory." Learning from his mentor and former boss Malang, the artist paints works rich in color, blending hues to portray his spiritual renewal and joy. Call 6341284.

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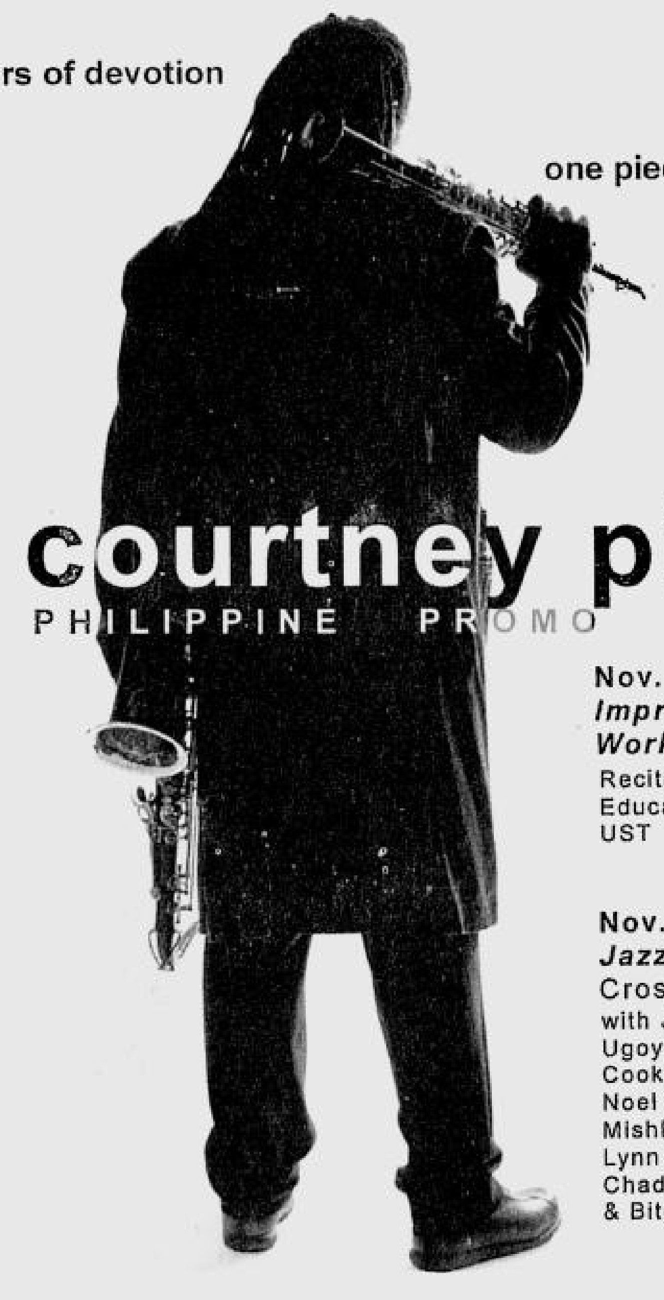

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FLORENCIO B. CONCEPCION

Odyssey to the second naivete

By Leovino Ma. Garcia
Contributor

HOW can the Florencio B. Concepcion paintings in the exhibit "Odyssey '70" at the Avellana Art Gallery (opening on Nov. 15) exude such youthful spontaneity? How can they be saturated with so much vibrancy that one feels touched and alive as one first sets eye on them?

The exuberance of being young, the zest of being alive, the conviction of being touched—these are the emotions offered to the viewer by a Concepcion painting if he or she but regard it with an unencumbered look which allows it to speak for itself.

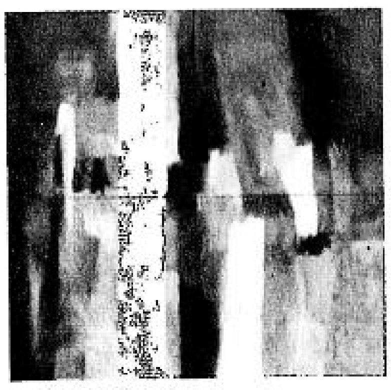
Then there follows the delightful surprise upon discovering that Concepcion is past 70, the low-key guru of leading abstract painters Lao Lianben and Gus Albor.

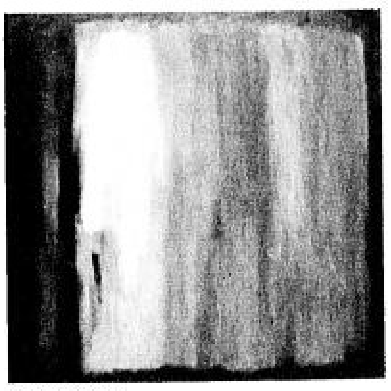
Concepcion must be a well-kept secret of a painter who has been quietly working at his art, uninterested in making waves in the social whirlpool and undisturbed by the dictates of fickle trends. To use Bush's term, Concepcion is remarkably "misunderestimated."

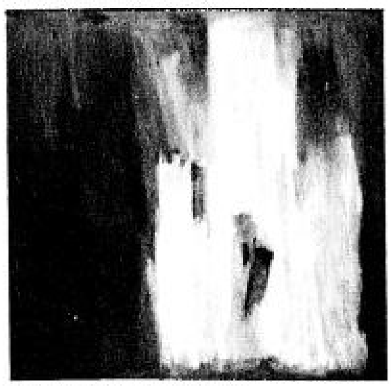
Concepcion is, of course, not bothered by that. For him, purity of heart is to will one thing—and that one thing has always been to be faithful to his vocation as a true artist.

Paintings that move

By his adept use of colors, Concepcion's paintings move the viewer. They, are therefore alive! Clearly, what comes with the feelings of youth and life is the feeling of freedom.


"ALLEGRO"


"PISCES II"


"NOCTURNAL Images"

Here is a painter who has been in earnest quest of his authentic self and is now reveling in that freedom which comes after a long detachment. It is that freedom of the creative imagination which resists the repetitive, the formulaic—the freedom and the courage to be once more spontaneous, still uncertain, still unfinished.

Concepcion has attained that enviable second naivete—that zone of innocence beyond knowledge, where intuition and intelligence become intimately linked.

There is nothing at all sleek in Concepcion's paintings. Perhaps, the Jewish philosopher Martin Buber was correct when he remarked that to be really young is to be able to begin.

In this sense, Concepcion is truly young. He has not tired of beginning.

Spontaneity of the brush

The brush strokes of Concepcion appear spontaneous, but this spontaneity is not that of a young person in rage. The spontaneous brush strokes are effortless strokes of gentleness, with a definite respect for rhythm, perhaps achievable only by someone who has cultivated a long patience and a loving relationship with the brush.

Concepcion's colors are vibrant, but even in their vibrancy, their serenity comes through. Obviously he delights in colors. It is perhaps a truism to say that he expresses what he feels with colors which seem intuitively chosen to bring about a visual tension.

Again here, it is the manifold sense (as in meaning) of life that is immediately conveyed by the senses. This can be gleaned from some of the titles given to the paintings—"Panorama with Red," "A Touch of Yellow" and "The Presence of Green."

Recreation of space

One painting bears an intriguing title "The Echo of the Wind." How can one present that which cannot be objectified? This is a challenge, most especially to the abstract artist. Yet it is possible if one does not equate art with representation but with recreation.

Concepcion recreates space, as evidenced by his ability to transform the inert square into a pulsating dynamic space. He reinvents the limited space of the square into a vast habitable territory where one can experience once again the challenge of becoming more human.

The exhibitions of Concepcion are few and far between. If one takes him on his word, he does not believe in exhibiting simply for the sake of exhibiting. According to him, in order to have an exhibit, one must "have something to say."

What Concepcion has to say with his seemingly effortless, masterful recreation of colors, forms and spaces is something not at all fashionable but is a constant truth that we will have to be reminded time and again—the exuberance of being alive, the thrill of being free, the wisdom of finally understanding that everything works for the good of those who do good and create beauty.

E-mail the author at lgarcia@ateneo.edu.

Fresh art . . .

From page D2

"The suggestion of a tender kiss planted on a lover's neck is revealed by the tension of a line in the sculpted figures," the artist points out. "The indulgence of an embrace is not lost either in the complementary colors moving within the confines of the canvas."

Bumatay's "Paglaya," plaster and terra cotta, depicts the twisted figure of a woman on a conical pedestal, as if it were a pupa wriggling out of a cocoon. The pairing of the white plaster and the reddish-brown terra cotta is inspired.

The artist reveals his theme is "freedom for oppressed Filipino women," and the figure represents Sisa, the madwoman in Rizal's novels. "It is a tribute to women breaking free from many forms of discrimination and abuse in society," he adds.

Another take on local icons, this time the first Filipino man and woman, is Flores' "Si Malakas at si Maganda Merchandised," paperboard and resin. It shows two crouching nude male and female figures duplicated and displayed in six boxes—a convincing, if playful, comment on sex for sale.

"Malakas and Maganda have evolved from myth to contemporary icons, labeled, boxed, stereotyped in society, a ready merchandise," says the artist. "They are the local version of G.I. Joe and Barbie—stacked, packaged and off-the-shelf."

Another comment on the flesh trade is De la Cruz's "Male Dancer," plaster of Paris. This is a small piece yet rather shocking for the way the artist depicts the figure of a supine macho dancer thrusting his lower limbs to the viewer, and it is anatomically correct, too.

The figure has a Rodin-like roughness of surface and unfinished look, with the torso, head and face melding with the ground, but it is colored a shocking pink—and this, of course, subverts the old idea of machismo. What's more subversive, the artist has taken the Greek ideal of the athletic male form, or even Michelangelo's heroic nude, and splattered it with sleaze.

The exhibit shows how young artists can create potent art out of old icons.

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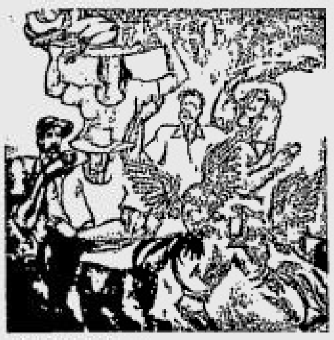
Carlos Trinidad pays homage to Manansala

THE LATE National Artist Vicente Manansala continues to cast his long shadow over the younger generation of artists. Advertising creative director Carlos Trinidad is not inured to the master's influence (he had met Manansala in 1974).

In his 10th solo, Trinidad pays homage to Manansala by the themes the latter had been known for: still lifes of Filipino culinary staples and scenes of merry rusticity. The colors and composition are hardly transparently cubistic, but are celebratory and Filipino.

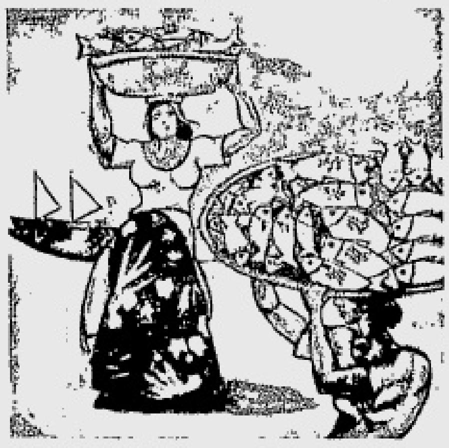
"What is the significance of Trinidad's homage to Manansala?" asks art critic Cid Reyes in the show's catalogue. "Foremost is the acknowledgment of the departed master's inspiration... Trinidad's art is an affirmation of the inexhaustible expressive power of the Filipino imagery, as culled from our customs, rituals, values and ways of life.



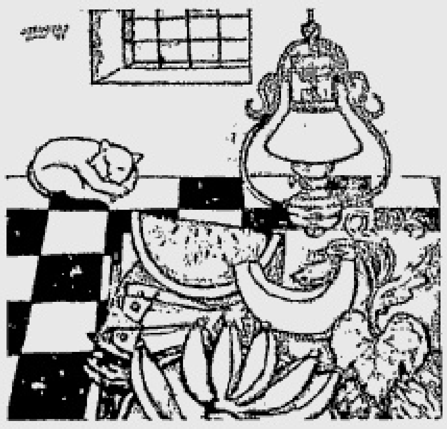
"PINTAKASI"

"Despite the onslaughts of a Western type of abstraction that has lured many young Filipino painters, Trinidad is aligned to a school of thought that contends that painting is, first and foremost, content, and form subservient to it. Authentic content, in Trinidad's belief, is that which connects the artist to the unique temper of his Filipino soul."

"Homage to Manansala" opens on Nov. 12 at the Manansala model unit at the R1 level of the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell, Makati.



"FISH Vendor"



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The artist as . . .

From page D1

15) consisting of 20 oil paintings by Antonio Bandalan.

In his fifth solo show, Bandalan revisits the sprawling 25-hectare gardens in the vicinity of Mt. Apo in Davao City. Owned by the Ayala couple, Jose and Tita, the site is a virtual paradise of tropical flora and fauna. The painter first saw it when he exhibited in Davao City in 2000 with fellow artist Fred Ramirez.

The glorious landscape, a living showcase of biodiversity, must have left its impression on the artist, a naturalist who paints in the astute ways of the impressionist school and his late mentor Ibarra de la Rosa.

Here, Bandalan revels in the sun-dappled charm of the meandering pathways, lined with blooming orchards and gently-swaying trees. The mist-wreathed backdrop beckons, casting a ray of textured light upon the languorously fuzzy foliage.

Like his Pintanaw colleagues, Melencio Sapnu and Lino Acasio, Bandalan wields a lyrical brush when conjuring images of the Arcadia. With mellifluous brushstrokes and a palette sense that gushes at every turn of the pathway, the works convey a sense of calm and harmony, and nature's infinite mysteries that lie ahead.

This show is a celebration of nature's exuberant beauty, an Eden that offers refuge and solace from the chaos and madness of the mortally damaged environment.

E-mail author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com

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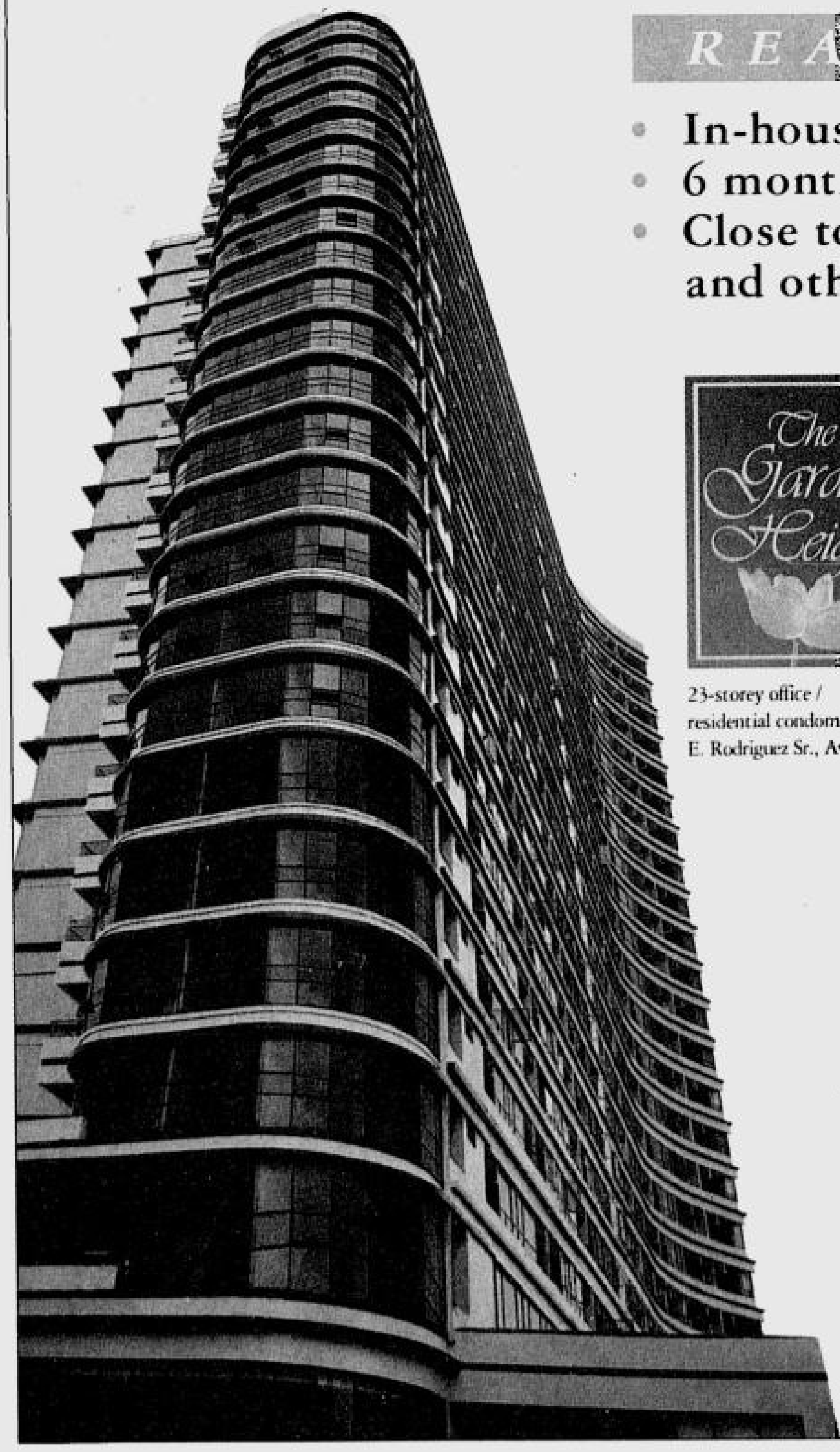

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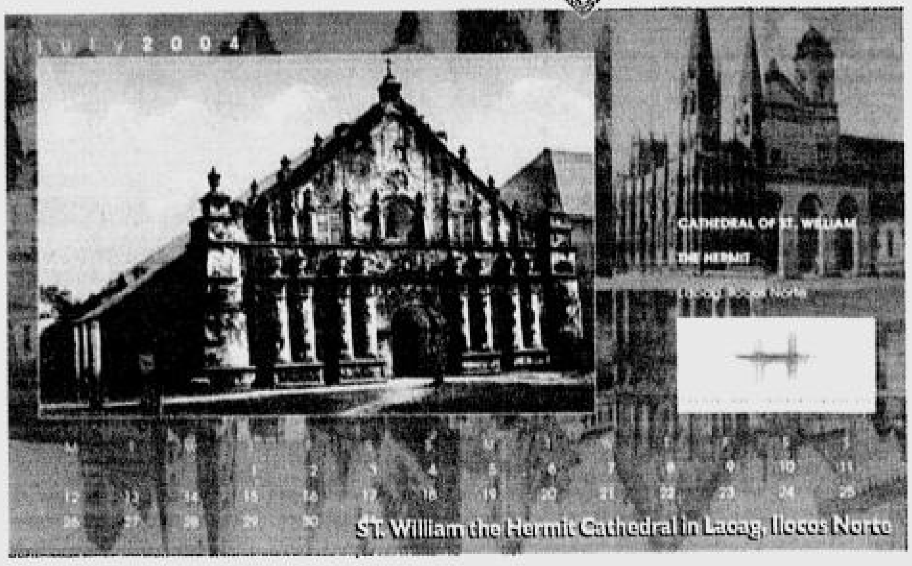

ST. William the Hermit Cathedral in Laoag, Ilocos Norte

Heritage churches get calendar-girl treatment

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

TO REMIND us that we should stand on constant guard to protect our heritage, the Heritage Conservation Society has published a desk calendar for 2004 that features archival photos and short historical data on 12 well-known Philippine churches.

The Parish Church of Our Lady of the Abandoned (Pedro Gil Street, Sta. Ana in Manila) was built on the site of what was said to be the site of the ancient Tagalog kingdoms of Sapa and Namayan that existed long before the Spanish arrival. The church stands out because inside the church cloister is an archeological site that has yielded important artifacts.

The Franciscans built the first church of bamboo and nipa in 1599. In 1720, the present church was constructed in the Baroque style. Its octagonal bell tower is designed with levels diminishing as the tower rises from the ground, a typical Philippine design for bell towers that is reminiscent of a pagoda.

A settlement of Chinese *mestizos* located between Binondo and Quiapo in Manila, the Santa Cruz district, became famous for its excellent artisans. From the ateliers of Santa Cruz came

HERITAGE/ E3

Rustan Supermarkets marks milestone with Cash Grab promo

In celebration of its 33rd anniversary, Rustan Supermarkets Inc. treats its loyal patrons to an exciting promotional activity that offers two ways of winning prizes.

Dubbed "Cash Grab", the promo allows Rustan Supermarkets customers to either win instantly in the Cash Grab booth or win a brand-new Toyota Corolla Altis or any of the 10 cellular phones in the grand draw.

From November 10 to December 28, 2003, customers visiting any branch of Rustan Supermarkets, Rustan's Fresh or any outlet of Rustan's Xxpresslane will be given free Cash Grab leaflets. Every purchase made is punched and validated on the Cash Grab leaflet. To be able to play in the Cash Grab booth, they must meet the purchase requirement of P3,000.00.

Inside the Cash Grab booth, a customer is given 30 seconds to catch as many play money in various denominations as he can. The accumulated amount in excess of P3,000.00 shall be paid in Rustan Supermarkets gift certificates.

All winning and non-winning customers in the game are likewise entitled to join the raffle promo. Purchase of sponsored products worth P150.00 entitles the customer to an additional raffle coupon. Customers must fill out their raffle coupons and drop these in drop boxes located at all Rustan Supermarkets branches.

A brand-new Toyota Corolla Altis 1.6J M/T, five Nokia 6800, three Nokia 3300, and two Nokia 3100 cellphone units await the lucky customers in the Grand Raffle Draw on January 7, 2003. All prizes are tax-free and should be claimed at Rustan Supermarket Cubao or Rustan Supermarket Cebu branch.

The "Cash Grab" promo is Rustan Supermarkets' way of thanking its customers for 33 wonderful years of continued patronage and adherence to quality products.

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1. Customers will be entitled to a Cash Grab card leaflet upon entry at any Rustan Supermarket. Each customer will get a chance to win a cash reward. The cash grab leaflets are given out for free.
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3. Only leaflets with valid and authenticated security punches will be honored.
4. Leaflets are punched only on the day of purchase and at the branch or outlet where the purchase was made. Completely punched Cash Grab leaflets must be surrendered to an authorized personnel and stamped "claimed" prior to entry in the Cash Grab booth to prevent repeated usage.
5. Customers can play only on the day and at the branch where the Cash Grab leaflet was completely punched.
6. All lost or tampered leaflets shall be deemed disqualified. Customer must meet the required purchase requirement to be able to qualify again.
7. Once the leaflet is completely punched and surrendered, an authorized Rustan Supermarket personnel will assist the customer to the Cash Grab machine to play the game. A maximum of 10 times to play will be entitled to a customer per day should their purchase exceed PhP 30,000.00 in one day.
8. Customer is given thirty (30) seconds per entry to the air-blown Cash Grab machine to catch as many play money (in various denominations) as he/she can.
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   b) Customer must always keep their feet on the footprints during the allotted game time.
   c) They cannot grab any play money below the knees, nor hold/keep the play money in their pockets, clothing or against their chest.
   d) Customer cannot lean against the sides of the machine
   e) Players may start only when the blower starts and must stop when the machine automatically stops after 30 seconds.
   f) After the time limit is over, only the play money accumulated in the Cash Bin will be valid for counting.
   g) The accumulated play money will be returned back to the machine, for the next customer to play.
   h) Non-compliance of the above rules will disqualify the customer from continuing to play and from winning.
10. Customer will win whatever total amount he/she can grab and accumulate in excess of PhP 3,000.00 instantly in the form of Rustan Supermarket Gift Cheques. However, the excess should not be less than PhP 100.00 otherwise, it will not be counted.
    Example:
    a. Winner grabbed PhP 3,120.00, he/she only wins PhP 120.00
    b. Winner grabbed PhP 4,000.00, he/she only wins PhP 1,000.00
    c. Winner grabbed PhP 3,025.00, he/she only gets a raffle coupon.
11. Winners and non-winners are qualified to join the raffle promo and are also qualified to join the game again and continue participating in the promotion.
12. Combination of cash grab leaflets to come up with the required PhP 3,000.00 worth of purchase will be allowed.
13. All cash prizes exceeding PhP 10,000.00 are tax-paid.
14. All employees of Rustan Supermarkets, Rustan's Fresh and Xxpresslanes, and its advertising agency, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity, are disqualified from joining the promotion.

Raffle Promo

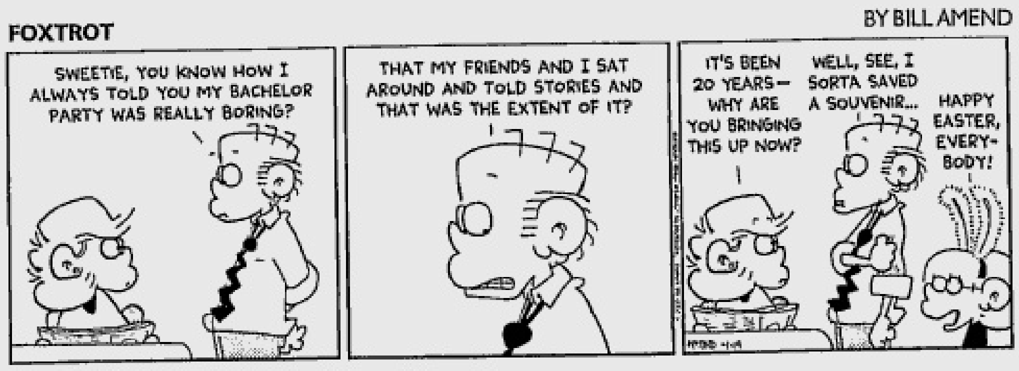
1. Winning and non-winning customers in the game are qualified to join the raffle promotion.
2. All customers who played in the Cash Grab machine are entitled to one (1) raffle coupon. Every one completely punched Cash Grab leaflet is entitled to one raffle coupon.
3. Every P150 worth of purchase of sponsored product entitles the customer to an additional raffle coupon. Customers, however, will only be given an additional raffle coupon if they are able to make the required PhP3,000.00 purchase.
4. Customers should fill-out their name, address, telephone number and affix their signature on the raffle coupon and drop it off in the designated drop boxes.
5. At the end of the promotion, entries from all branches and outlets will be collected to raffle off the following prizes:
   a.) One (1) Toyota Altis Corolla 1.6J M/T
   b.) Ten (10) Nokia cellular phone units, as follows:
      1.) 5-6800 units
      2.) 3-3300 units
      3.) 2-3100 units
6. Car insurance and cellphone lines are not included in the prize.
7. Deadline to drop entries or raffle coupon is on December 28, 2003.
8. Raffle draw will be held on January 7, 2004, 3:00 pm at Rustan Supermarket's Cubao Branch, Araneta Center, Quezon City, and will be witnessed by a DTI Representative.
9. A customer can only win once. If his/her name is drawn more than once, he/she gets to win the higher-priced raffle prize.
10. Rustan Supermarket will pay the 20% tax for prizes exceeding PhP 10,000.00.
11. Winners will be notified by registered mail and must present a valid identification card upon claiming their prize at the following address:
    a. Metro Manila winners- Rustan Supermarket Cubao Branch, Araneta Center, Quezon City
    b. Cebu winners- Rustan Supermarket Cebu Branch, General Maxilom Avenue, Cebu City
12. For Cebu winners, customers will shoulder airfreight cost of vehicle.
13. Redemption period for the raffle prizes shall be within 60 days from the date of notification.
14. Prizes not claimed within 60 days shall be forfeited with prior approval of the DTI-NCR.
15. All employees of Rustan Supermarkets, Rustan's Fresh and Xxpresslanes and its advertising agency, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity, are disqualified from joining the promotion.

Ariel
Downy.
head & shoulders
SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION
Nestle
JACK 'n JILL
nissin
Century Tuna
Colgate
HUGGIES
Johnson's baby
Knorr
Lactum
NIDO
mentos
PUREFOODS HORMEL

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3311 Series of 2003

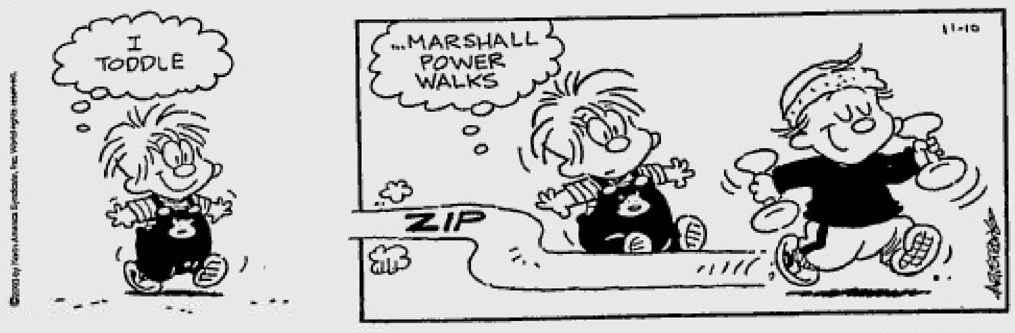
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


SWEETIE, YOU KNOW HOW I ALWAYS TOLD YOU MY BACHELOR PARTY WAS REALLY BORING?
THAT MY FRIENDS AND I SAT AROUND AND TOLD STORIES AND THAT WAS THE EXTENT OF IT?
IT'S BEEN 20 YEARS— WHY ARE YOU BRINGING THIS UP NOW?
WELL, SEE, I SORTA SAVED A SOUVENIR...
HAPPY EASTER, EVERY-BODY!

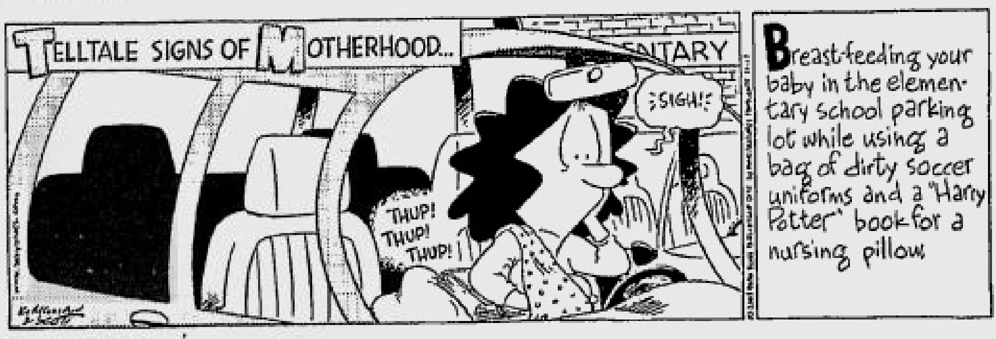
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I TODDLE
...MARSHALL POWER WALKS
ZIP
11-10

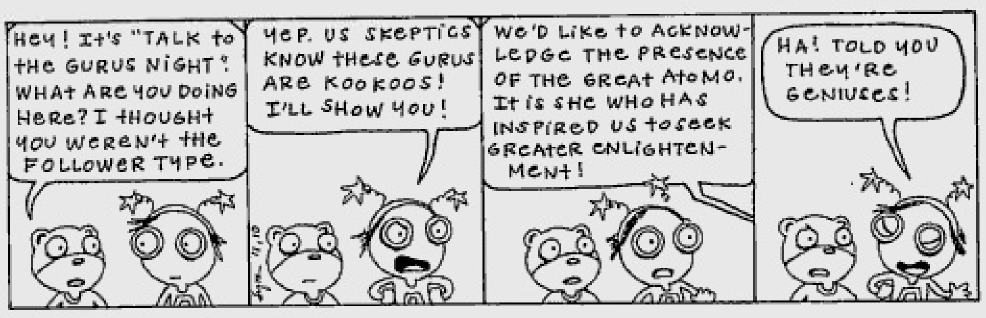
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


TELLTALE SIGNS OF MOTHERHOOD...
ENTARY
SIGH!
THUP! THUP! THUP!
Breast-feeding your baby in the elementary school parking lot while using a bag of dirty soccer uniforms and a "Harry Potter" book for a nursing pillow

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey! It's "TALK to the GURUS NIGHT". WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? I thought you weren't the FOLLOWER TYPE.
Yep. US SKEPTICS KNOW these GURUS ARE KOOKOOS! I'LL SHOW YOU!
We'D LIKE to ACKNOWLEDGE THE PRESENCE OF THE GREAT ATOMO. It is SHE WHO HAS INSPIRED US to seek GREATER ENLIGHTENMENT!
HA! TOLD YOU THEY'RE GENIUSES!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are confident and creative. You want an opportunity to express your talents. You often undergo profound changes in your life. You are intense and sometimes given to extremes. You definitely go after what you want. The year ahead is a time of wrapping up things and finishing a major cycle.
Birthdate of: Brittany Murphy, actress; Mackenzie Phillips, actress; Ann Reinking, actress/dancer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Everyday problems that caused you worry and concern are suddenly much more manageable now. You see that the light at the end of the tunnel is not a train. (What a relief!)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Get on top of banking matters and financial negotiations today. Figure out where you stand. Decide what your objective is and what you are prepared to give or to lose.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You start this week off with the Moon in your sign. This gives you a slight advantage over everybody else. You might as well milk this for all it's worth.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Your urge to play is catching up with you. Make sure you get enough rest this week. Ben Franklin was right: You can't burn the candle at both ends.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Someone has something interesting to tell you today. This could be news from a friend or even from a stranger. Be attentive to even the most casual conversation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): It is in your best interest to be polite with authority figures and bosses today. With Jupiter in your sign, Lady Luck is with you. You have divine protection.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Be open to new ways of doing things today. Vary your routine. There's a good chance you can learn something exciting and thought-provoking if you are open to new ideas.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Start this week off by wrapping up loose ends related to insurance matters, estates, wills and inheritances. Clear up confusion about shared property.

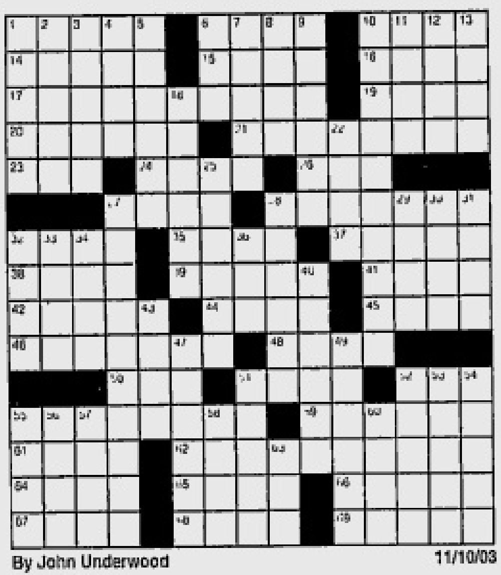
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): For a relationship to be successful, you must be as good for your partner as he or she is for you. Make sure you go more than halfway to meet someone in all your dealings today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): It's important to accept invitations from others now. Your ability to socialize can promote your good name among your peers.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): All eyes are on you now! The Sun is at High Noon in your chart. Not only are you in the limelight, you're in a position to influence others.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Try to increase your physical exercise now. As Mars finally moves forward in your sign, you still have a lot of pent-up energy that needs someplace to go.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By John Underwood
New York, NY
11/10/03

ACROSS
1 Scheduled next
6 Suffixes for philosophies
10 Navajo's neighbor
14 Burgs
15 Slow down!
16 __-Ude, Russia
17 La-di-da
19 Social standing
20 Add to the beauty of
21 Settles
23 Theol. belief
24 Time unit
26 Bashful
27 Mint or sage
28 Aussie burrowers
32 Jason's vessel
35 Uh-uh
37 Fish dish
38 Overcharge
39 New Haven student
41 Film spool
42 Steve or Woody
44 Undecided
45 Not curled
46 Repertory members
48 Moist with morning drops
50 Nuptial or natal lead-in
51 Fairway call
52 Stand in the way of
55 Kit and __.
59 Aplenty
61 How some run?
62 Monkey business
64 Cash penalty
65 A single time
66 Ricky Nelson's dad
67 Apprehensive
68 Twixt 12 and 20
69 Dodge cars

DOWN
1 Alternative
2 Nary a soul
3 Baton motion
4 Against
5 Lover of Eros
6 __ Jima
7 Make cloth gathers
8 Speck
9 Claims to know
10 Rumpus
11 Norway's patron saint
12 Window part
13 Calligrapher's needs
18 Vexatious
22 Units of resistance
25 Wolf pack subs
27 Old-fashioned dance
28 Oddball
29 On the ocean
30 Subsequently
31 Worm secretion
32 Rush-job acronym
33 __ with the punches
34 Festive affair
36 Mideast grp.
40 Vim
43 Despotic emperor
47 All the rage
49 Murder trial evidence
51 Theft abettor
52 Chimp in a Reagan film
53 Alan or Adam
54 Point NW of San Francisco
55 Sidewalk eatery
56 Immersed in
57 Bell sound
58 Kidder in "Superman"
60 Kick back
63 Griffey, Jr. or Sr.

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

S	T	E	A	M	S	H	O	V	E	L		H	I	C
C	O	M	M	U	N	A	L	I	T	Y		A	N	O
H	E	S	I	T	A	T	I	O	N	S		G	E	M
				A	R	E	O	L	A		F	I	F	E
R	O	S	I	N	E	S	S			O	L	A	F	S
E	V	E	N	T	S			D	E	P	O	S	I	T
P	E	A	T			P	O	C	O	A	P	O	C	O
U	R	L		S	P	A	N	I	S	H		P	I	P
D	I	A	G	H	I	L	E	V			R	H	E	A
I	N	V	O	I	C	E			S	K	E	I	N	S
A	T	E	A	M			R	A	T	A	T	A	T	S
T	E	N	T		D	E	A	D	E	N				
I	N	D		R	A	T	T	L	E	S	N	A	K	E
O	S	E		E	S	T	E	E	L	A	U	D	E	R
N	E	R		C	H	E	R	R	Y	S	T	O	N	E

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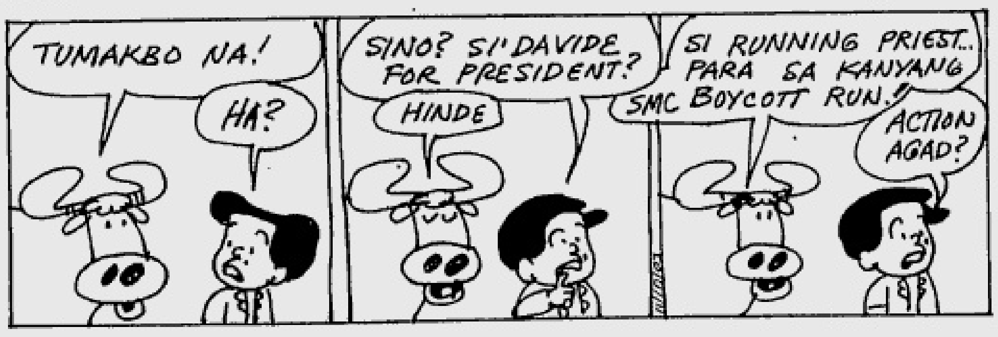
11/10/03

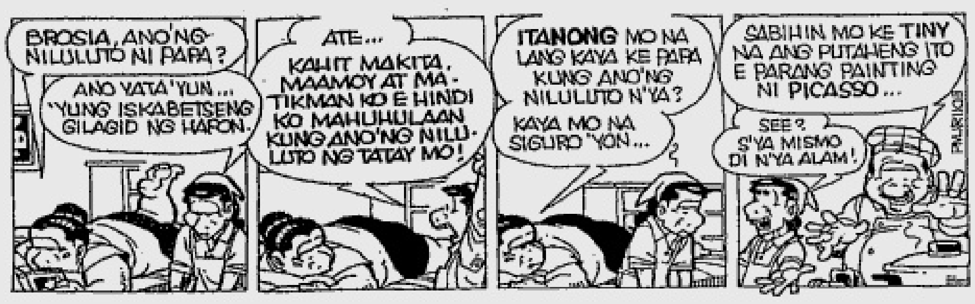
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


TUMAKBO NA!
HA?
SINO? SI' DAVIDE FOR PRESIDENT?
HINDE
SI RUNNING PRIEST... PARA SA KANYANG SMC BOYCOTT RUN!
ACTION AGAD?

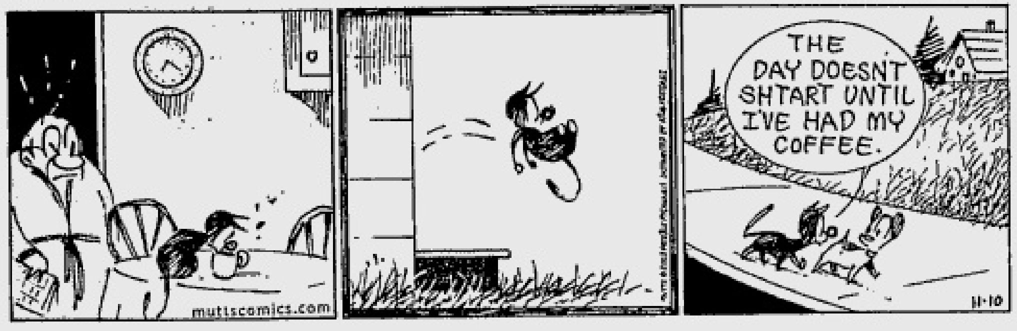
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BROSIA, ANO'NG NILULUTO NI PAPA?
ANO YATA 'YUN... 'YUNG ISKABETSENG GILAGID NG HAPON.
ATE...
KAHIT MAKITA, MAAMOY AT MATIKMAN KO E HINDI KO MAHUHULAAN KUNG ANO'NG NILULUTO NG TATAY MO!
ITANONG MO NA LANG KAYA KE PAPA KUNG ANO'NG NILULUTO N'YA?
KAYA MO NA SIGURO 'YON...
SABIHIN MO KE TINY NA ANG PUTAHENG ITO E PARANG PAINTING NI PICASSO...
SEE? S'YA MISMO DI N'YA ALAM!
PALRIC

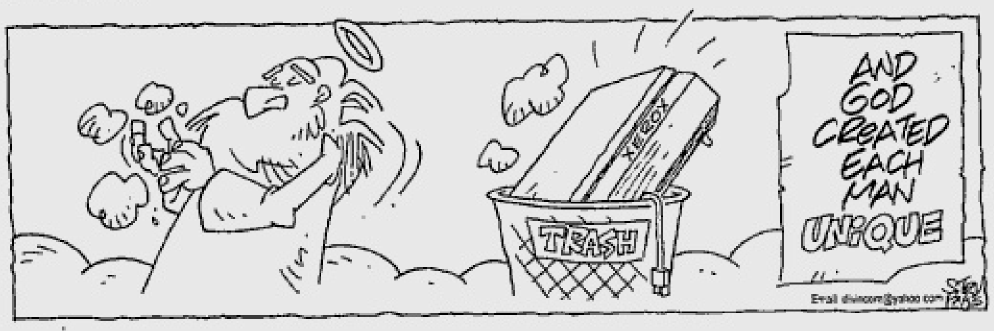
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


THE DAY DOESN'T SHTART UNTIL I'VE HAD MY COFFEE.
muttscomics.com
11-10

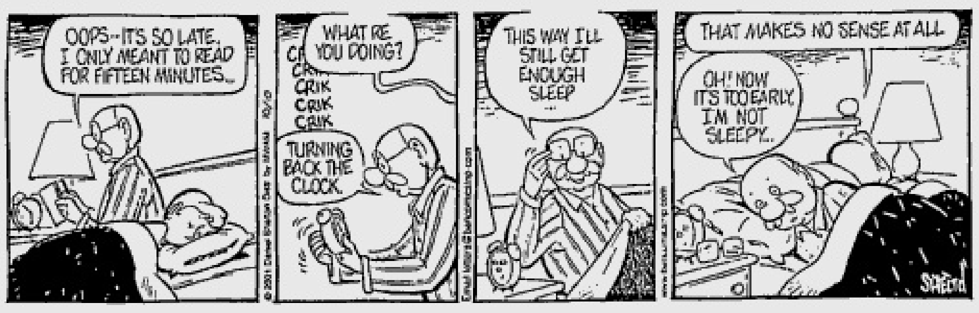
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


XEROX
TRASH
AND GOD CREATED EACH MAN UNIQUE

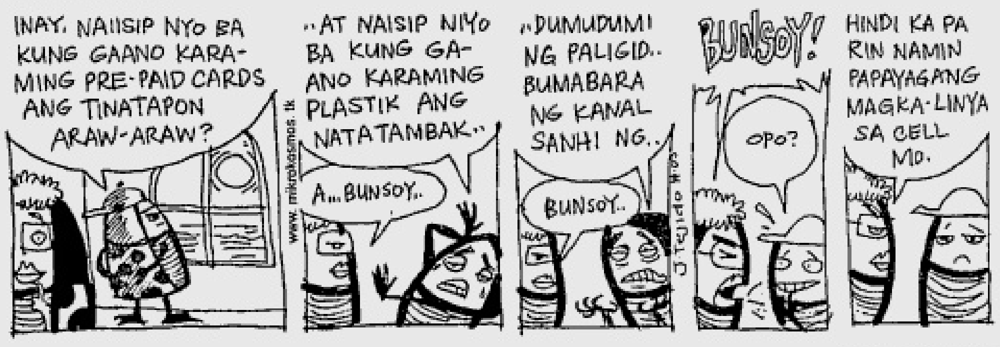
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


OOPS--IT'S SO LATE. I ONLY MEANT TO READ FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES...
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
CRIK CRIK CRIK CRIK
TURNING BACK THE CLOCK.
THIS WAY I'LL STILL GET ENOUGH SLEEP
THAT MAKES NO SENSE AT ALL
OH! NOW IT'S TOO EARLY, I'M NOT SLEEPY...

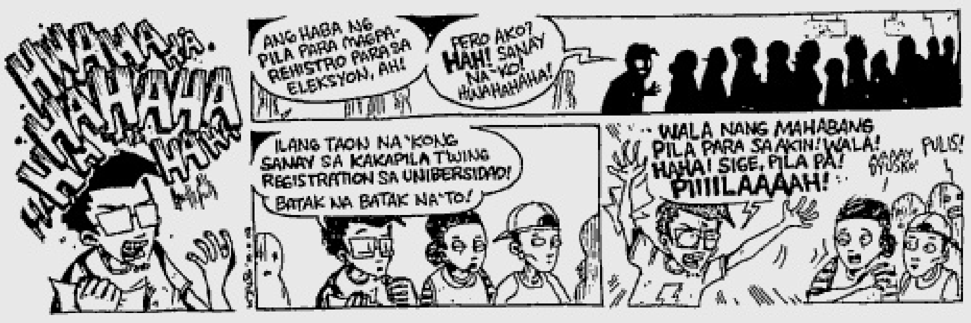
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


INAY, NAIISIP NYO BA KUNG GAANO KARAMING PRE-PAID CARDS ANG TINATAPON ARAW-ARAW?
..AT NAISIP NIYO BA KUNG GAANO KARAMING PLASTIK ANG NATATAMBAK..
A...BUNSOY..
..DUMUDUMI NG PALIGID.. BUMABARA NG KANAL SANHI NG..
BUNSOY..
BUNSOY!
OPO?
HINDI KA PA RIN NAMIN PAPAYAGANG MAGKA-LINYA SA CELL MO.
www.mikrokosmos.tk

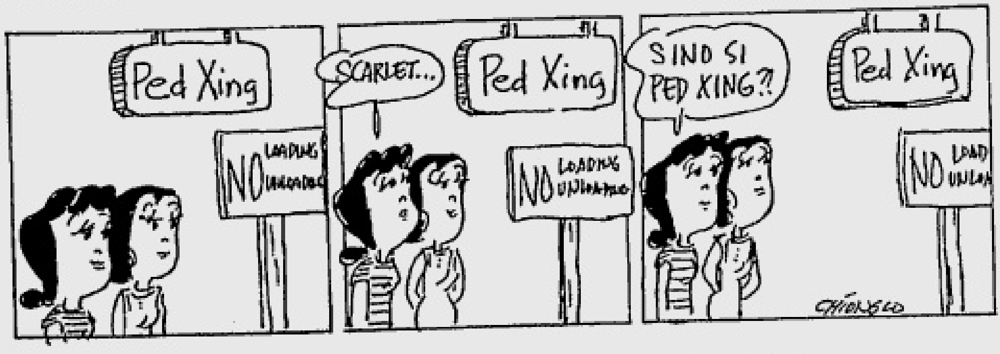
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


ANG HABA NG PILA PARA MAGPAREHISTRO PARA SA ELEKSYON, AH!
PERO AKO? HAH! SANAY NA 'KO! HUAHAHAHA!
ILANG TAON NA 'KONG SANAY SA KAKAPILA TWING REGISTRATION SA UNIBERSIDAD! BATAK NA BATAK NA 'TO!
WALA NANG MAHABANG PILA PARA SA AKIN! WALA! HAHA! SIGE, PILA PA! PIIIILAAAAH!
PULIS!

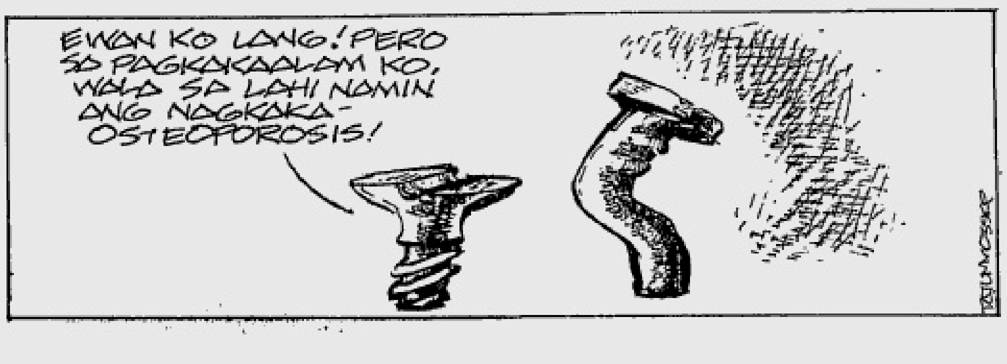
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


Ped Xing
NO LOADING UNLOADING
SCARLET...
SINO SI PED XING?!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


EWAN KO LANG! PERO SA PAGKAKAALAM KO, WALA SA LAHI NAMIN ANG NAGKAKA-OSTEOPOROSIS!

Heritage churches get . . .

From page E1

ivory and wood statuary, silver filigree and jewelry, embroidery, and other crafts that enhanced residences and churches but were valued as exports to Mexico.

The Jesuit Order took administration of the area, eventually building a stone church in 1688. The image of Nuestra Señora del Pilar de Zaragoza was installed, and it remains in the church until this day. A strong earthquake destroyed the church in 1863, leading to its complete renovation in 1869 when a Greek temple portico was added to its façade.

'Garden' church

Another heritage church is the Parish Church of Nuestra Señora de Buen Suceso in La Huerta, the old Spanish name for Parañaque. La Huerta means "garden" because of the many vegetable gardens in that once supplied Manila from the seaside town. Parañaque's present church dates to 1638 when it replaced a temporary wooden structure.

The church complex was occupied by British troops in 1762, used as temporary headquarters by Spanish Governor Polavieja while he directed a campaign against Aguinaldo's "revolucionarios." It sustained bomb damage during the Philippine-American War but was repaired.

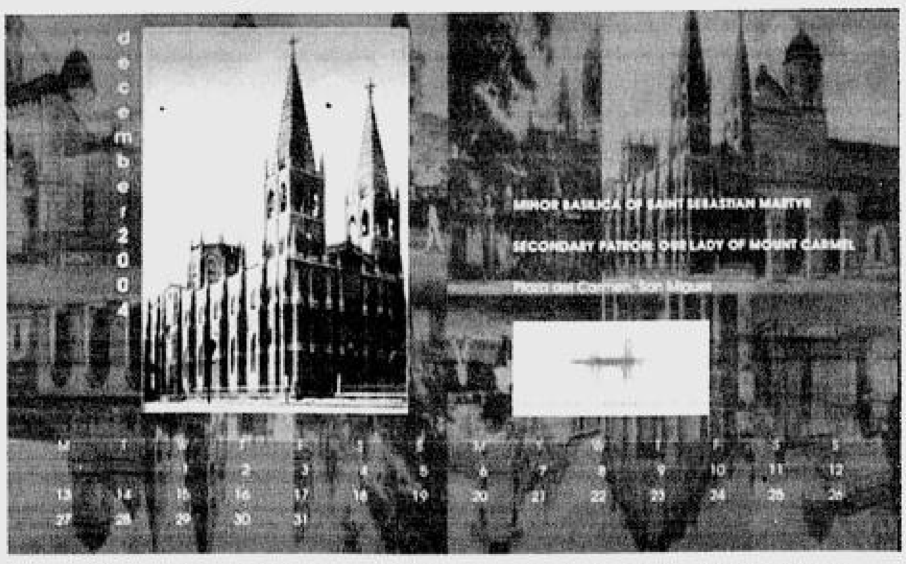
Laoag's Cathedral of St. William the Hermit is an Augustinian church, first built in 1700 but almost completely restored after damage by earthquake in 1843. Its simple architecture is embellished with decorative columns and fanciful forms, giving the church a strong personal character. Its bell tower, a squat structure built in typical Philippine style that evokes a pagoda, is built quite a distance from the main church. The practice of separating bell towers was developed to protect the church from damage should the tower fall on top of the church during an earthquake.

The story of the image of Our Lady of Caysasay has many versions. One says that Juan Maningkad, a fisherman on the Pansipit River, caught an image of the Virgin Mary in his net. The image was then brought was brought in a solemn procession to Taal Church by the resident friar, Juan de Montoya.

Another version of the story speaks of Juan, a Chinese resident killed during the Chinese Revolt of 1603. Before his body was thrown into the Pansipit River, Juan called out to heaven for mercy. The Virgin appeared and brought him back to life, after which he built a small chapel in her honor which eventually became the Shrine of our Lady of Caysasay.

The first chapel constructed of light materials was built in 1611. The present coral stone church was constructed in 1639. A series of earthquakes devastated Taal and Caysasay Church, which was reconstructed in 1856 when a Greek-style portico was added to the façade.

Fr. Rene Javellana writes that the Minor Basilica of San Sebastian was "the ultimate solution" to the problem of the Recollect friars about "the constant expense of rebuilding churches." They had recently completed one in San Miguel district, near Quiapo, when the earthquakes of 1863 and 1880 crumbled the entire structure to the ground. It was the era of the Industrial Revolution, steel was the craze in Europe, so why not build a church out of steel? Architectural plans by Genaro Palacios, a government engineer, were prepared, sent to Belgium, where the structure was manufactured in modules and shipped to Manila for assembly. To soften the industrial look, Manila's leading painters were commissioned to soften the interior in painted grisaille and trompe l'oeil, succeeding in texturing the steel walls with painted faux marble. Eusebio Garcia, a leading sculptor of the day, created the statuary for the Neo-Gothic high altar.


december 2004
MINOR BASILICA OF SAINT SEBASTIAN MARTYR
SECONDARY PATRON: OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL
Plaza del Carmen, San Miguel

SAN Sebastian Church in Manila

november 2004
SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF
CAYSASAY

OUR Lady of Caysasay Church in Taal, Batangas

Case study

San Sebastian is a great case study. Javellana continues, "Did the friars find the final solution? Yes and no. Certainly, San Sebastian, the only all-steel church in the Philippines and possibly in the Far East, has survived numerous earthquakes, even a world war. But the church is under assault from the sky. Downtown Manila's polluted air sends acid rain that slowly but surely corrodes its steel structure. The Recollects have waged an ongoing battle to save their treasure: chemical washes and acrylic paints have been applied but rain continues to damage the church. It is an uphill battle," concludes Javellana.

Preserving our heritage is an uphill battle indeed. The Heritage Conservation Society began in 1999 as a not-for-profit trust to provide leadership, education and advocacy to save our diverse historical sites and to revitalize communities throughout the country.

The HCS continues its lobby for protective legislation. It created chapters in Cebu, Carcar (Cebu) and Dumaguete. It has protected some of the endangered sections of our public domain. It establishes funds for preservation, promotes heritage awareness in the educational curriculum and acts as technical consultant to the Department of Education "Heritage Schoolhouse" program that aims to restore one heritage schoolhouse in each region of the Philippines.

Twelve heritage churches highlight the 2004 Heritage Conservation Society desk calendar, a perfect gift to give for the holidays. Archival photographs of each church are from the collection of HCS trustee Richard Lopez. Art historian Fr. René Javellana SJ and this writer wrote the explanatory text.

A single calendar costs P185. For a minimum purchase of 10 calendars, the cost is reduced to P165 each. For orders of 10 pieces or more, deliveries within Metro Manila are available for a nominal charge. Proceeds from sales go to fund HCS activities for 2004. Place your orders at the HCS Secretariat (tels. 5212239 and 5222497.)

Email your comments to afvillalon@hotmail.com

DIABETES and LIFESTYLE

Dealing with Diabetes

When you were told, after a fasting glucose test, that you have diabetes, did a gateway in your mind open up, releasing a powerful current of tangled thoughts?

Bringing you back to the reality of the diagnosis, was your doctor taking you through the Next Steps. You may remember asking yourself "What now?" as if those "Next Steps" were not the answers.

Stages of Dealing

Information as jolting and life changing as being diagnosed with diabetes involves stages of dealing with change. According to Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross*, a psychiatrist, initially there is Denial, then Anger, Bargaining, Depression and finally Acceptance.

DENIAL Denial at the onset is normal. It only becomes a problem when you stay in this phase too long, delaying you from learning more about your condition and the diabetes management and self-care that it requires.

ANGER You are angry at the whole world and blame everyone for your diabetes. To you, diabetes is an enemy. You are angry because you foresee how diabetes will change your life. Anger, in fact, is a defense against the fears and threats of diabetes and its complications. Anger stands in for all your anxieties.

BARGAINING Change has to start somewhere and it is usually here. You strike a deal with yourself. Pass up on dessert, start brisk-walking or give up chocolates. All seem a good enough deal to start with. But you know there is more to diabetes than these.

DEPRESSION Controlling one's blood glucose level and keeping it close to normal is toughest. Strict diet, mandatory exercises, regular check-ups and tests... tedious, making you feel hopeless. Getting stuck in this stage can also sabotage your management of your diabetes. Depression tempts you to give up all the "musts".

ACCEPTANCE You could simply wake up to a good morning and realize that there is life after diabetes. You are thinking more clearly. You are more comfortable facing the changes brought about by diabetes and you are now ready to look at the brightest side of life. You begin your "To Do" list.

Where do you go from here?

There may still be cloudy days ahead but you know it is just a stage and you can always look forward to better days.

One practical solution to smile about is **Glucerna SR!** **Glucerna SR** is a convenient low-calorie meal or snack replacement for diabetics complete with all the essential vitamins and minerals. **SR** stands for slow release carbohydrate that results in a lower blood glucose level. The fat formulation is high in Mono-unsaturated Fatty Acids that help keep lipid levels in check and provide other benefits for cardiac health. It is also lactose-free and gluten-free with soluble fiber content that is healthy for the gut. **Glucerna SR** is available in delicious buttery caramel vanilla flavor.

Needless to say, Acceptance opens you up to new interests and discoveries! Look around . . . you may even discover a new you!

**Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, M.D is a psychiatrist and the author of the groundbreaking On Death and Dying. According to her there are five stages that a dying person goes through when they are told that they have a terminal illness. This model has been used by other authors and applied to many other situations where someone suffers a loss or change in social identity. She has earned a place as the best-loved and most-respected authority on the subject.*

NEW Glucerna Slow Release SR

HCS CALL 6890-444 FOR FREE NUTRITION ADVICE

ABBOTT LABORATORIES

Diabetes management is not a walk in the park.

Uncontrolled blood sugar can lead to debilitating or severely damaging complications such as heart disease, blindness, kidney disease and amputations.

Take the first step in glucose control with Glucerna SR.

Small steps can have huge payoffs. Making Glucerna SR a part of your diet and exercise regimens can give you better glycemic control and improved quality of life.

Glucerna SR is a clinically-proven meal or snack replacement with the Slow Release carbohydrate system that helps keep blood sugar levels under control. Have a glass of Glucerna SR everyday.

Clinically-proven to help keep your glucose levels under control.

Recommended by doctors.
Trusted by people with diabetes.

NEW Glucerna Slow Release SR

Available in 400 gms.

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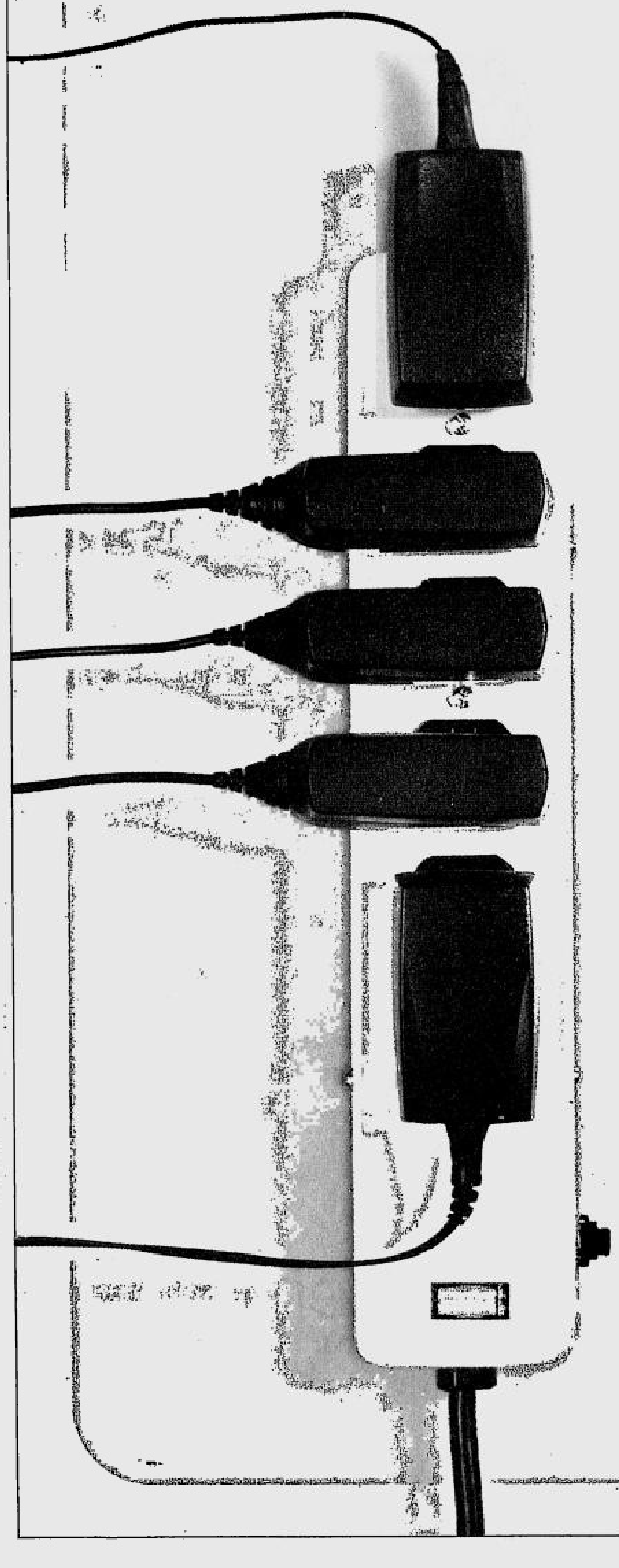

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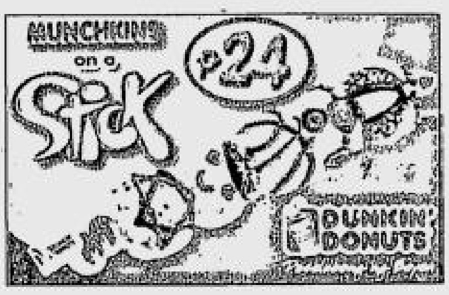
MUNCHKINS on a Stick P24
DUNKIN' DONUTS

FICTIONIST-playwright Jessica Hagedorn

ELLEN Stewart with Malou Jacob

Women playwrights of the world, unite!

By Cora Llamas
Contributor

VETERAN playwright Malou Jacob estimates the number of writers that modern Philippine theater can rely on to be 25. Fewer still are theater companies willing to invest time and money to develop and produce a writer's original material.

The Women Playwrights International (WPI) may not quite solve the problem of funding, but it is hoping that, by encouraging training and the enrichment of ideas through interaction and teaching, the number of Filipinos writing for theater can increase.

It believes nothing can quite inspire a starving young unpublished writer than to see successful senior colleagues read from their own mesmerizing material or to undergo a workshop that could further expand his/her creative horizons.

That is what WPI's Sixth International Conference hopes to accomplish. The conference, to be held Nov. 14-20 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, expects some 100 delegates from such countries as Cambodia, Peru, Korea, Australia, Iran, Greece, Italy, Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom and the United States, among others. It is sponsored by the Japan Foundation, Asian Cultural Council, and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

International network

The WPI is a network of about 300 playwrights and theater artists from all over the world. It holds an international conference every three years starting in 1988. Some 100 to 400 participants from all over the world attend the meetings.

Jacob, WPI Philippines' artistic director, says, "We expect 80 attendees from outside the country, and the remaining 20 from the Philippine theater community. The workshops and conferences will take place in the morning, and dramatic 10-20 minute readings from 60 plays will happen simultaneously during the afternoons."

Morning sessions will tackle topics such as "The Craft of Playwriting," "The Theater of the Oppressed" and "Writing for Images and Music." Some of the fascinating short pieces in the afternoon are:

Kaniku ("The Fresh Fruit") by Hanaarashi of Japan, a dance that explores the deepest existence of the self. Described as near improvisation, the performance, which is for adults only, shows that the dancer's instantaneous experience is an important requisite for his work.

Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues" to be performed by Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, founder of the Philippine Educational Theater Association (Peta).

"Dancing on the Blood," written by Ivete de Oliviera and Maria Nunes of East Timor. This is the story of Rosa Bonaparte, the first East Timorese woman to call for women's libera-

WOMEN/ F2

> But believe it or not, men are welcome to the Women's Playwrights International in Manila

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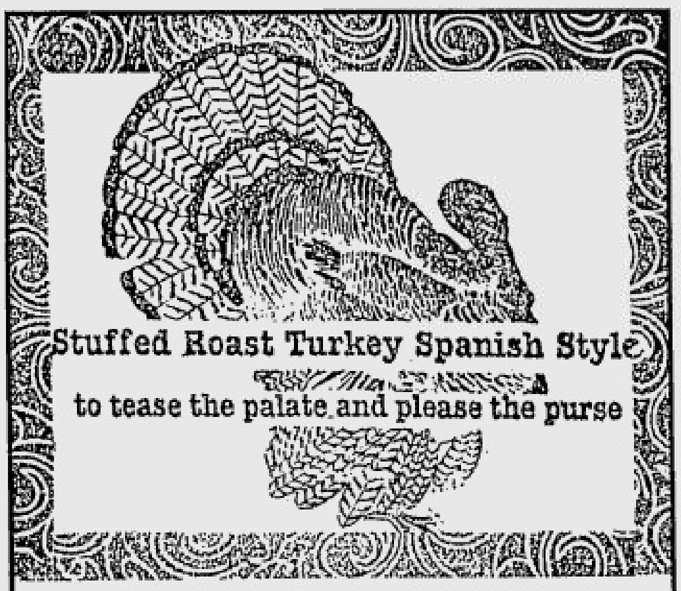
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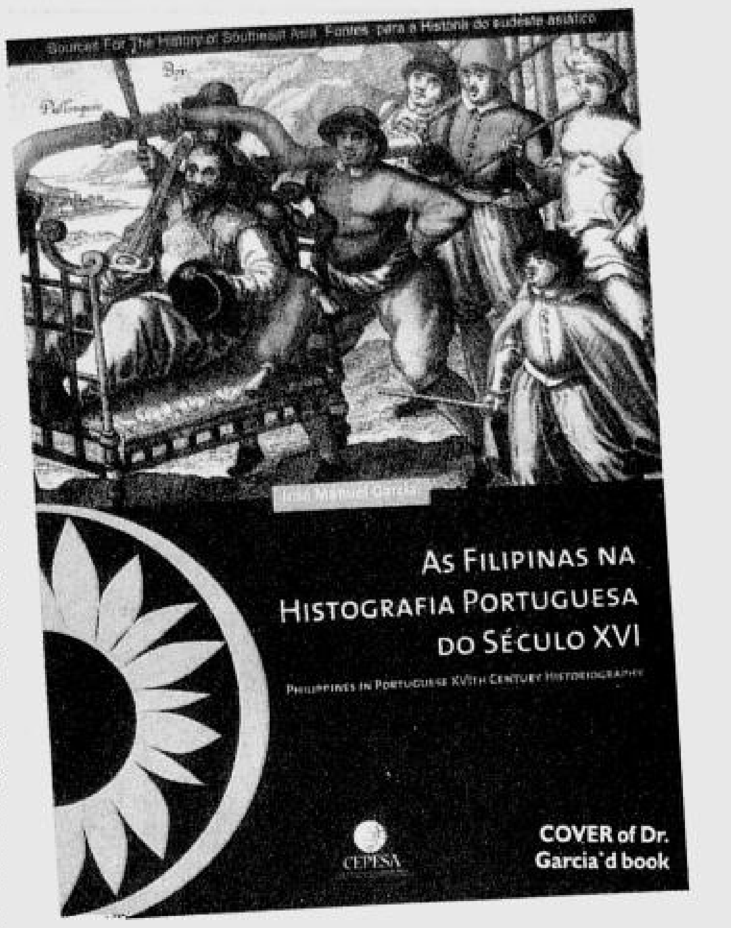
History conference boosts Philippines-Portugal relations

By Bernardita R. Churchill
Contributor

FR. ANGEL Aparicio, OP, prefect, UST Central Library; Dr. Victor Gomez Teixeira of University of Porto; Dr. Jose Manuel Garcia of the Cepesa Portuguese studies center; Ambassador João Caetano de Silva; and Paulo Coutinho, executive director of "Revista de Cultura-Macao" view a portion of the UST collection of Portuguese rare books.



Sources For The History of Southeast Asia. Fontes para a Historia do sudeste asiatico
José Manuel Garcia
As Filipinas na Histografia Portuguesa do Século XVI
Philippines in Portuguese XVIth Century Historiography
CEPESA

COVER of Dr. Garcia'd book

IN CELEBRATION of Portuguese Week in Manila (Oct. 6-21), a research seminar on "Portuguese Sources for the History of the Philippines" was held on Oct. 21-22 at the Center for Intercultural Studies (CIS) of the University of Santo Tomas.

This academic activity was the result of the initiatives of the Embassy of Portugal headed by Ambassador João Caetano da Silva and Counsellor Isabel Margarida Bela Ferreira.

Until last year, when a seminar on Philippine-Portuguese relations by Portuguese and Filipino historians was held here for the first time, not much attention has been paid to that aspect of Philippine history during the 17th century.

There was, as a matter of fact, a big gap in Philippine historiography concerning the history of the country and its first contacts with the first Europeans in Southeast Asia during the age of discovery and exploration, specifically before the arrival of Fernão de Magalhaes (Ferdinand Magellan) in Mactan in 1521 (the period from the fall of Malacca to the Portuguese in 1511 and the arrival of Magalhaes in 1521), and the period before the arrival of Miguel Lopez de Legazpi in Filipinas in 1565 (or the period from 1521 to 1565, other than brief references on the Philippines in the accounts of the expeditions of Loaysa, Saavedra and Villalobos).

In other words, what has been missing is the history of the contact of the indigenous peoples of this archipelago with the first Europeans to arrive in Southeast Asia—the Portuguese. Whatever has been written about the Portuguese presence in the Philippines has been rather scanty, and based almost exclusively on Spanish sources. Now it appears that there are rich archival materials on the Philippines in Portugal as well as in Macao, a former Portuguese colony, which should be useful in enriching research on Philippine history during the early centuries of Spanish colonial rule.

Two Portuguese historians—Dr. Jose Manuel Garcia and Dr. Victor Gomes Teixeira, both researchers from the Portuguese Center for Southeast Asian Studies and who also came to the Philippines last year—presented their research papers at the two-day seminar.

Garcia read a paper on "The Philippines in Portuguese 16th Century Chronicles: Maritime Strategies, Political Alliances, Economic Trade and Slavery." He also launched his book on the same subject on Oct. 21, attended by a select group of academics and the diplomatic corps.

Teixeira's paper was on "The Philippines in Portuguese Religious Sources." A beautiful "Revista de Cultura" published by the Instituto Cultural in Macao was also introduced to the participants, consisting of interesting articles on Portuguese-Philippine relations in East Asia, specifically on the relationship between Macao and the Philippines in the 16-18th centuries.

RC
International Edition 7
Revista de Cultura
Manila
no contexto das relações ibéricas a Oriente

SPECIAL issue of the "Revista de Cultura" on the history of Philippine-Portuguese relations published by the Instituto Cultural in Macao

Filipino participation

Filipino historians took part in the seminar as discussants/reactors to the papers presented by their Portuguese counterparts. The interaction between the historians of the Philippines and Portugal was significant, considering how little has been written on the relations between the two countries during those early centuries of Western presence in East and Southeast Asia.

The Filipino historians included Dr. Francis A. Gealogo (Ateneo de Manila University), professor Digna B. Apilado (UP Diliman), Fr. Jose Arcilla, SJ (ADMU), Fr. Fidel Villarroel, OP (UST) and Fr. Lucio Gutierrez, OP (UST). Ambassador Albert Encomienda delivered pertinent remarks on Dr. Garcia's book, while this writer (representing the Philippine National Historical Society and NCCA-Committee on Historical Research) gave a review.

Dr. Ricardo T. Jose (UP Diliman), and Ma. Eloisa P. de Castro, Erlita Mendoza, and Ma. Alexandra Chua (all from UST), chaired the sessions. CIS director Cynthia Luz Rivera provided the summary of proceedings.

The Filipino historians were unanimous in pointing out the importance of the research currently being done by Portuguese historians on the Philippines. Garcia's research on 16th-century Portuguese chronicles introduces to Filipino historians new approaches and sources. The chronicles included in his paper and book date from the 1550s and contain interesting insights not only on Portuguese activities in the Philippines and Southeast Asia, but also interesting ethnographic material on the Filipinos during the period of contact, particularly on the island of Mindanao, the area where Portuguese activities seem to have been concentrated during this early period.

Larger context

More importantly, from these chronicles, one can have a good sense of the Philippine situation in the context of a larger Southeast picture, an aspect that has been lacking in the research and writing of Philippine history. There has been a tendency on the part of some, thankfully not all, Filipino historians to adopt an extremely ethnocentric perspective in the writing of Philippine history, as if it were a legitimate scholarly exercise to remove Philippine history from the context of Southeast Asian and/or Spanish and, now, Portuguese history.

DR. Jose Manuel Garcia presents his volume, "The Philippines in the Portuguese Chronicles of the 16th Century," to Rev. Fr. Fidel Villarroel, OP, director of the UST Archives, and Dr. Armando de Jesus, UST vice-rector for academic affairs.

Teixeira's paper was on the religious missions from the Philippines that were sent to Portuguese territories in Southeast Asia during the 16th and 17th centuries, especially when the Spanish and Portuguese crowns were united under one dynasty. During that period, while conversion of the Filipinos was being carried out by the various missionary orders in the country, some of these missionaries were also undertaking the conversion of other peoples elsewhere in Asia. Thus, the Philippines was not totally isolated from the rest of the world during the Spanish period, as has been previously assumed.

The paper concluded that knowledge of the Christianizing activities of the Iberian religious orders would give a "deeper knowledge" of the effect/influence of these missions on the life of these peoples of the region.

Ambassador Da Silva said he hopes to keep up the momentum of academic relations between Filipinos and Portuguese historians. The next activity will be a conference on Philippine-Macao relations in the 16th and 18th centuries, to be held in February in Macao.

Women playwrights of the world, unite!

From page F1

tion and freedom. She was eventually captured and tortured by the Indonesian military and killed with hundreds of her countrymen.

Probably the most awaited reading is Tami Monsod's rendition of "Dogeaters" by multi-award-winner Filipino-American playwright Jessica Hagedorn. It was one of the more celebrated novels in 1990 and was nominated for the National Book Award that year. One reviewer described it as the definitive recounting of the mutual antagonism and ambiguous affection between the US and the Philippines.

Hagedorn was born and raised in the Philippines, moving to the USA in her early teens. Her other critically acclaimed works include "Where the Mississippi Meets the Amazon," a collaboration with Thulani Davis and Ntozake Shange; "Teeny Town," with Laurie Carlos and Robbie McCauley; and "Airport Music" with Han Ong.

Theater productions

Evenings will feature longer, complete productions: The Barasoain Kalingan Foundation Inc.'s production of Jacob's own "Anatomiya ng Korupsyon," the bittersweet fight of an honest lawyer against institutionalized corruption in the Family Court.

In "I Don't Want To Play House," Australian Tammy Anderson portrays 14 characters she has encountered in a kinetic 50-minute swirl of monologue and movement with background country and western music.

"Maija of Chaggaland" from the Australia-African Performing Arts International. Author Sheela Langeberg reenacts the story of her own mother's growing-up years in Tanzania in the 1950s. It deals with rituals, witchcraft, sex education and relationships between males and females of all ages.

WPI Philippines conducted recently two workshops in Davao City and identified ten women playwrights from the Moro communities.

Jacob underscores the significance of this discovery, "As a playwright based in Manila, I can only interpret the plight of the refugees in Mindanao. But it will be different coming from a writer who has actually experienced it. She can write [first-hand] about the experiences of her community and the children."

Jacob firmly believes in tapping into the fresh blood found in community theater. "I want to reach out to those playwrights and groups outside the reach of Manila's professional theaters. Our people enjoyed theater long before the coming of the Spaniards. The priestesses, the local *babaylan*, were our storytellers and they passed on the tales from one generation to the next."

Finally, Jacob clarifies that, despite its title, the WPI conference is open to male playwrights. She is resolute in reaching out to every Filipino playwright who wants to improve his/her skill—from the proven to the budding, the Metro-Manila-based to the provincial.

Call 8321125.

Oscar Yatco in homecoming concert

By Rowena C. Burgos

MANY Filipinos have the mistaken idea that classical music is stuffy and old. This is why bringing audiences into a concert hall is a problem for most symphony musicians.

"We don't give such groups a chance to really be heard. All over the place what we hear is pop music, which is good for the music scene here. Just look at how empty the Cultural Center of the Philippines is. It's not really empty but not exactly mainstream. We have to find what people will go for. It should be a combination of classical and pop music," says conductor-violinist Oscar Yatco.

Yatco, who has been conferred the title of Conductor Laureate by CCP in 1997 for the development and professionalization of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, has established a new standard for symphony music-making in the country, exploring a repertoire ranging from Bach's "St. Matthew's Passion" to Lloyd Weber's "Jesus Christ Superstar." He has sought a wider audience by organizing outreach concerts in schools and provinces and by initiating orchestral performances at Rizal Park.

RODEL Colmenar

OSCAR Yatco

Musical groups will continue to mushroom, Yatco says. "But the one with the best musical concept and who can utilize the best resources to further develop musicians and music will survive the tough competition."

Concert with the Maestro

Yatco has been residing in Germany since 1974. He started as principal violinist at the National Theater Orchestra in Mannheim and eventually rose to the position of concertmaster. He became the concertmaster of the Wagner Festival Orchestra in Bayreuth from 1976 to 1980.

"I left the country in 1974 when the former first lady Imelda Marcos put up the CCP Orchestra. I was hoping they'd help develop the Manila Symphony Orchestra, which I was handling, into a national orchestra. Her agenda then was to promote the Philippine Women's University, where she was a voice student. I thought there would be no future for me here so my family and I left for Germany," Yatco says.

In 1979, he was appointed professor of violin at the State Academy of Music in Hannover and concurrently, upon the invitation of Imelda Marcos, served as music consultant of the CCP Philharmonic Orchestra in 1982.

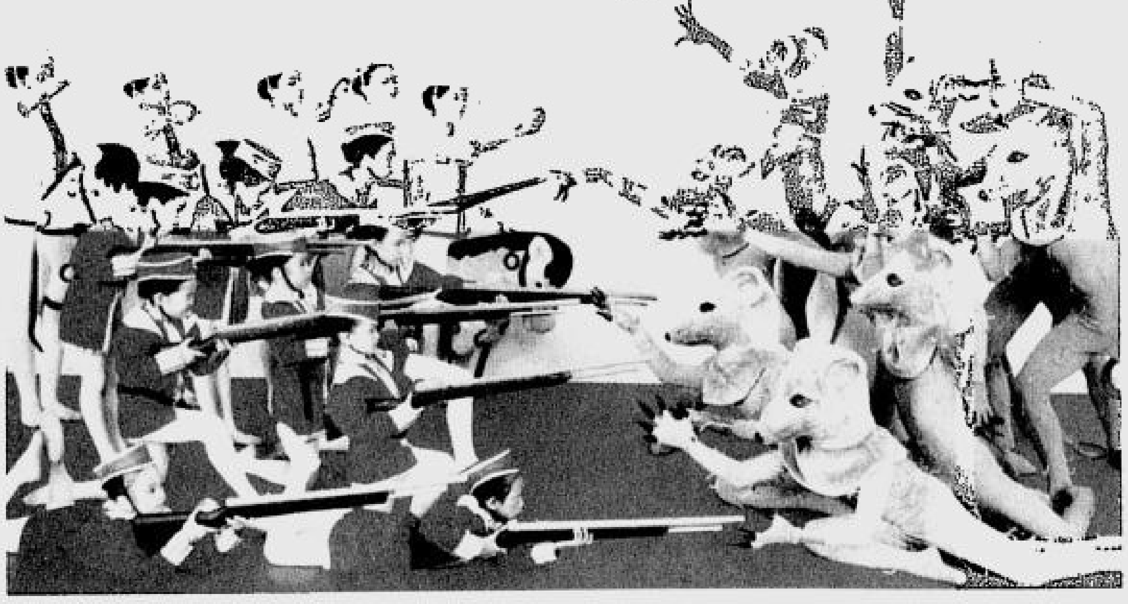
"I was living a double life then. I was residing and teaching in Hannover and during the semestral break and Christmas vacation, I'd be in Manila helping the CCP Orchestra, which I renamed Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra in 1982."

On Nov. 15, 8 p.m., Yatco will perform in "Classics with the Maestro" with Manila Philharmonic Orchestra and conductor Rodel Colmenar. To be held at Philamlife Theater, UN Avenue, Manila, the concert will feature "Finlandia, Op. 26 No. 7" by Jean Sibelius, "Symphony No. 8 in G major" by Antonin Dvorak and "Violin Concerto" by Aram Khachaturian.

"Conducting has been my main work but I'm happy to play the violin again," says the 72-year-old Yatco who plays the violin two hours daily and golf twice a week.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

Ballet Manila presents 'Nutcracker'



BALLET Manila students playing soldiers and rats in the battle scene of the "The Nutcracker."

CHRISTMAS is always the best time to present "The Nutcracker," a two-act full-length ballet about a little girl who falls in love with a nutcracker doll that nobody else wants. Ballet Manila presents "Nutcracker" in Star Theater at the Star City Complex on Nov. 21 to Dec. 21 on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays—with special performances during some weekends in December.

"Because we have more than 27 nutcrackers this year, I have made four different casts. All three ballerinas dancing the lead role of the Sugar Plum Fairy, aside from myself, will be dancing the role for the first time. They are Mylene Aggabao, Marian Faustino and Christine Rocas," explains Ballet Manila artistic director Lisa Macuja-Elizalde.

Dancing the role of the magical Nutcracker Prince will be principal danseur Osias Barroso, soloist Jerome Espejo and first-timers Gerardo Francisco and Francis Cascaño. All excited about taking part in their first "Nutcrackers" are 20 chosen children from the Ballet Manila School—the youngest being 7 year old. Visiting ballet master from the Vaganova Ballet Academy in St. Petersburg, Russia—Evgeny Shcherbakov—will be preparing the artists for their important debuts.

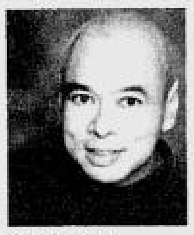
A double Christmas family treat awaits all who come to Ballet Manila's "Nutcracker" as a ticket to the ballet may also be exchanged for a ride-all-you-can bracelet at Star City. Call 4043086, 4000292 and 5255967.

LISA Macuja-Elizalde as the Sugar Plum Fairy and Osias Barroso as the Prince

ROBERT Seña

DULCE

ISAY Alvarez



RAMON Acoymo

Concert, art exhibit honor Pinoy heroism

FILIPINO heroism takes centerstage through a drama-musical billed "Tagumpay ng Bayan" set for Nov. 16 at the Meralco Theater.

The concert is produced and staged by Kilosbayan, an ethics-driven cause-oriented organization led by former Senate President Jovito Salonga.

Kilosbayan aims to raise financial support for its projects, many of which have had impact on policy-making and review, transparency in government, and issues advocacy.

The concert will feature a collection of songs, dance and poetry depicting Filipinos' love for their country, according to former DPWH Secretary Jose "Ping" de Jesus, chair of the concert committee.

The Bayanihan Dance Company opens the musical with a celebratory dance, followed by renditions of classic Filipino songs by Dulce, Isay Alvarez, Robert Seña, Ramon Acoymo and the UP Madrigal Singers.

Alternating with musical pieces are narrations and poetry readings by Joel Torre and Chin Chin Gutierrez.

Proceeds from the concert will go to current social action-oriented projects of Kilosbayan.

The musical will be preceded by an art exhibit titled "Wood and Form," featuring the sculpture pieces of Jerry Araos, whose works are widely recognized as the benchmark for sculpture in wood. The exhibit runs Nov. 12-16.

Tickets for the drama musical, priced at P5,000, P3,000 and P1,500, are available at the Kilosbayan house. Call 5345868 and 5345889.

Lipa archdiocese holds concert for Bishop Obviar

THE ARCHDIOCESE of Lipa and Maka-Obviar Associations will mount, for the second time, the Maka-Obviar Concert, which aims to promote the cause for beatification of Bishop Alfredo Ma. Aranda Obviar. Obviar was the first Batangueno bishop, the first auxiliary bishop of Lipa, founding bishop of the Diocese of Lucena, and founder of the MCST (Missionary Catechists of St. Therese of the Child Jesus). His cause for beautification has already been approved by the Sacred Congregation of Saints at the Vatican and needs only a few more steps before finally being decided upon by the Holy Father.

This year's concert is dubbed "Oo, Batangueño Pa Rin Concert." It will be held on Nov. 15 at 5:30 p.m. at the Batangas Provincial Sports Complex, Bolbok, Batangas City. Popular singers, actors and other entertainers will once more take center stage.

A highlight of this year's event is the launching of a comics booklet detailing the life and ministry of Obviar. The occasion also serves as the archdiocesan despedida party for Manila Archbishop-elect Gaudencio B. Rosales.

Tickets are available in the parish offices in the Archdiocese of Lipa. Call (043) 7562572, (043) 7233956.

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Rustica Carpio marks 45 years in theater

MULTI-AWARDED performer, teacher and writer Rustica C. Carpio celebrates 45 years in theater in "Paco Park Presents" on Nov. 14, at 6 p.m. She will do excerpts from "The New Yorker in Tondo" by Marcelino Agan Jr.

"Paco Park Presents" is produced by the Rizal Park Development Committee under Jaime Recio, assisted by Freddie Edos and Jenny Asetre. Minette Padilla is program host. Admission is free.

This satirical nationalistic play tells of a Filipina who studied in New York, USA, for less than a year, and returns to the Philippines with an air of sophistication after having been acclimated to a new environment. Adapted by National Artist Daisy Hontiveros-Avellana, "New Yorker" had been popularized by Carpio not only in the Philippines but also in the People's Republic of China.

The New York setting is very familiar to Carpio, who took up her MA in Education, major in Speech Education, at New York University as a Fulbright grantee and International Hose scholar. She was in Russia in 1984 for work experience in theater.

Her honors include: one of the Ten Outstanding Women of the Philippines for 1968 from the Federacion Internacional de Abogadas for invaluable contribution in the performing arts; inclusion in the World Who's Who of Women, 1982, published by the International Biographical Centre in England; one of the Twelve Outstanding Bulakenyos of 1991; Green and Gold Artist of the Far Eastern University in 1998 for her outstanding achievements in the performing arts; and Patnubay ng Sining at Kalinangan sa Larangan ng Tanghalan/Dula during the 432nd founding anniversary of Manila in June 2003.

The University of Santo Tomas, where Carpio finished Ph.D. major in Literature, meritissimus, named her to the Graduate School Hall of Fame in 1998 for achievements in literature.

Dr. Carpio is executive director of the FEU President's Committee on Culture.

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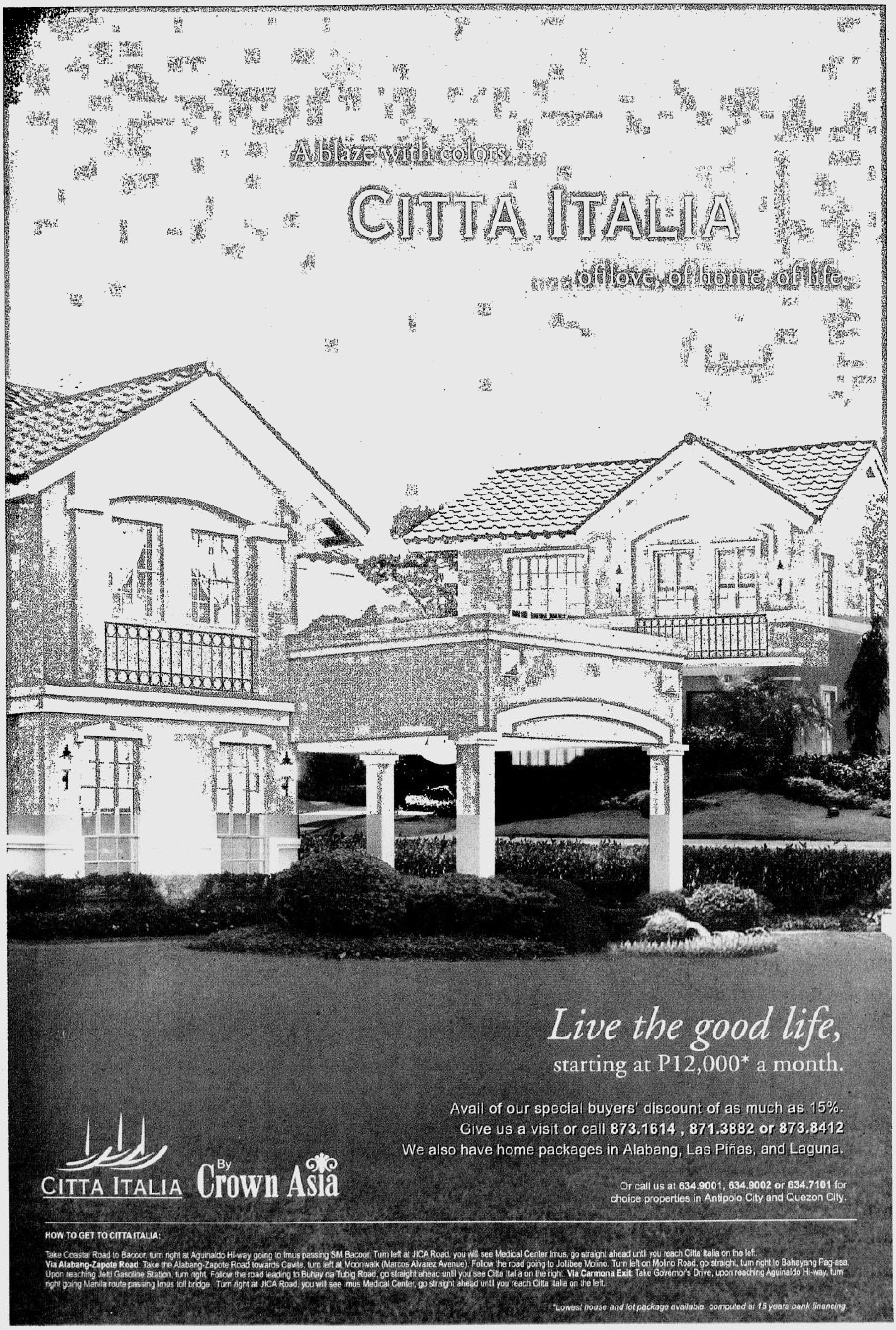

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